LONDON MISSION

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CONTENTS

LONDON MISSION / ISSUE 81

1/ The Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, The Honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar SC, MP

2/ Her Excellency Christine Kangaloo received a courtesy call from RAF WWII Veteran Prince Albert Jacob

VIEWS FROM **THE MISSION**

4/ Memorial Gates Ceremony marks 80th Anniversary of WWII

4/ Commonwealth Commemorates 76 Years

5/ T&T Showcases Food and Beverage Brands at Food and Drink Expo 2025

7/ Carib Lager Draught Celebrates Triumphant UK Launch

8/ Trinidad and Tobago's 63rd Anniversary of Independence Evensong Service at Westminster Abbey

12/ Adventist Community Celebrates Trinidad & Tobago Day in London

13/ From Indentureship to Diaspora: Narratives of Migration and South Asian Identity

15/ Transplant Links Community Strengthening UK–Trinidad & Tobago Partnership in Kidney Transplant Care

THE DIASPORA SPEAKS

17/ A Tribute to Three Centenarians: Tina Aparicio, Prince Albert Jacob and Sheila Yvonne Ramsay

17/ Opera Singer Anne Fridal Performs at Windsor Castle for Commonwealth Study Conference Dinner

24/ Four T&T Nationals Win Chevening Scholarships

26/ Celebrating Culture and Community at Doubles & Vibez 2025

28/ Sybil Marjory Atteck (1911–1975): Trinidad and Tobago's Leading 20th-Century Modernist

30/ Blue Plaque to Honour T&T's Icon and Activist Claudia Vera Jones

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO NEWS

36/ Global Famalay Reunites in Trinidad And Tobago for 11th Steelpan and Carnival Arts Conference

36/ T&T Senior Men's Football Team Compete at Unity Cup 2025 in London

37/ T&T Student gains Hands-On Experience in Surgical Robotics at Leeds

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A Publication of the High Commission for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, 42 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8NT

TEL: 020 7245 9351, EMAIL: hclondonPACT@foreign.gov.tt

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Ms. Urvashi Ramnarine | CONTRIBUTING WRITERS: Mrs. Beverley Awonaya, Ms. Urvashi Ramnarine, Mr. Lawson C. Lovell

PROOFING: Mrs. Beverley Awonaya, Ms. Urvashi Ramnarine | CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS: Mr. Lawson C. Lovell, Ms. Beverley Awonaya, Mrs. Adanna Taylor, Mr. Raymond Butler | LAYOUT AND DESIGN: Mr. Lawson C. Lovell

THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO THE HONOURABLE KAMLA PERSAD-BISSESSAR SC, MP

The Honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar SC, MP was born on the 22nd of April, 1952. As a little girl she was always interested in reading novels and was intrigued by the developing technologies of the time. Mrs. Persad-Bissessar graduated from Iere High School and went on to further her studies at the University of the West Indies, Norwood Technical College (England,) and the Hugh Wooding Law School. Consequently, she was awarded a B.A. (Hons.), a Diploma in Education, a B.A. of Laws (Hons.) and a Legal Education Certificate. In 2006 she obtained an Executive Masters in Business Administration (EMBA) from the Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business, Trinidad.

The Honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar SC, MP, Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

On completion of her studies, Mrs. Persad-Bissessar entered the teaching profession. Her career history can be described as people-centered and one that has always focused her energy within the public's eye. While in England pursuing studies, she worked as a social worker with the Church of England Children's Society of London. She taught at the St. Andrew High School in Kingston, Jamaica and at the Mona Campus in Jamaica. Later, she taught at the St. Augustine campus of the University of the West Indies in Trinidad. At the Jamaica College of Insurance she was also a Consultant Lecturer. Her next step was to lecture at a Tertiary Education institution. After lecturing for a total of six years, Mrs. Persad-Bissessar then became a full-time Attorney-at-Law.

In 1987 Mrs. Persad-Bissessar entered the political arena. From 1987 until 1991, Mrs. Persad-Bissessar served as an alderman for St. Patrick County Council. Representing the United National Congress in Opposition, she took the Oath of Allegiance at a sitting of the Senate on November 1, 1994. Since 1995 she has been the Member of Parliament for Siparia, serving as Attorney General, Minister of Legal Affairs and Minister of Education between 1995 and 2001. The United National Congress returned to the Opposition benches in 2002 and on April 26th, 2006, Mrs. Persad-Bissessar was appointed Leader of the Opposition, the first woman to ever hold that position in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. Mrs. Persad-Bissessar was appointed Leader of the Opposition a second time on February 25, 2010, almost one month after she was elected political leader of the United National Congress.

On Tuesday May 26, 2010, two days after a victory at the polls, Mrs. Persad-Bissessar created history yet again, becoming the first woman to hold the office of Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. She would again win the Siparia seat at the 2015 and 2020 General Elections, both times serving as Opposition Leader.

On May 1, 2025, three days after her party's victory at the polls, Mrs. Persad-Bissessar took take the oath of office as Prime Minister.

Top right & above: On Thursday May 1, 2025, The Honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar SC took the oath of office as Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago before Her Excellency Christine Carla Kangaloo, ORTT, President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. **At right:** The Honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar SC with Government Ministers following the swearing-in of newly appointed Ministers, administered by Her Excellency Christine Carla Kangaloo O.R.T.T. at The President's House on 3 May 2025. **Photo: OTPTT**

HER EXCELLENCY CHRISTINE KANGALOO RECEIVED A COURTESY CALL FROM RAF WW II VETERAN PRINCE ALBERT JACOB

Above: 1) Her Excellency Christine Carla Kangaloo, ORTT, President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, received a courtesy call from Mr. Prince Albert Jacob, Royal Air Force World War II veteran, originally from Trinidad, joined the RAF in 1943, **2)** Her Excellency Christine Carla Kangaloo, ORTT speaking with Mr. Prince Albert Jacob. **3) (L-R)** Mr. Dennis T. Olivier, Chairman of the Delegation of the Royal Air Forces Association Trinidad and Tobago Branch No. 1075, Dr. Joseph Jacob (nephew of Mr. Prince Albert Jacob) and Dr. Kenneth P. Butcher, President, Royal Air Forces Association Trinidad and Tobago Branch No. 1075. **Photo: OTPTT**

In keeping with the spirit of remembering our war heroes, Friday 21 November 2025, Her Excellency Christine Carla Kangaloo, ORTT, President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, received a courtesy call from Mr. Prince Albert Jacob, Trinbagonian Royal Air Force World War II veteran.

Having left our shores in 1943 to serve in the Royal Air Force during the Second World War, Mr. Jacob served with distinction and was highly decorated for his valour and dedication. Mr. Jacob celebrated his 100th birthday in 2025 and played an active role in commemorations honouring the contributions of WWII veterans.

Also present for the visit were Mr. Dennis T. Olivier, Chairman of the Royal Air Forces Association Trinidad and Tobago Branch No. 1075; and Dr. Kenneth P. Butcher, President of the Royal Air Forces Association Trinidad and Tobago Branch No. 1075, Dr. Joseph Jacob, nephew of Mr. Prince Albert Jacob.

At left: Mr. Prince Albert Jacob. **Photo: OTPTT**

THE MISSION WELCOMES NEW DIPLOMATIC OFFICERS

In December 2025, two members of staff joined the High Commission in London and assumed their duties. Ms. Carina Latoo was appointed First Secretary (Consular). Prior to her appointment, she served as a Senior International Relations Officer in the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs and brings over seventeen (17) years of experience in the Public Service.

In early January 2026, Mr. Mitchell Chandrika joined the High Commission as Security Attaché. A Police Officer with over twenty-two (22) years of service in the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service, including extensive experience with the Special Branch, he most recently served as the Officer in Charge of Special Branch Operations for the Southern Division.

The High Commission warmly welcomes Ms. Carina Latoo and Mr. Mitchell Chandrika confident that their stewardship will lead to an enhanced capacity of each department.

The High Commission also bid farewell to Mrs. Adanna Taylor, Commercial Officer, Mrs. Carol Valentine-Heath former Security Attaché and Ms. Dawn Elie-Forde, Administrative Attaché. We thank them for their service and wish them the very best in their future endeavours!

Top: Ms. Carina Latoo, Consular Officer, **At right:** Mr. Mitchell Chandrika, Secruity Attaché

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY STAFF WORKSHOP

In honour of International Women's Day, which is celebrated on 8 March, Dr. Natalie Johnson, a renowned Breast and Oncoplastic Surgeon, delivered an impactful health and wellness session to the female staff of the High Commission on Thursday, 6 March 2025.

Dr. Johnson shared practical, evidence-based guidance tailored to the realities of women balancing professional, personal, and family responsibilities. Her presentation highlighted the importance of early detection, lifestyle awareness, and informed decision-making as key components of long-term wellbeing. Attendees were encouraged to prioritise regular health screenings and adopt preventative approaches to care.

The session concluded with an interactive question-and-answer segment, where Dr. Johnson addressed individual health concerns and fostered open, supportive dialogue. The exchange created a safe space for learning and reflection, reinforcing the value of proactive health management and shared knowledge among women in the workplace.

Top: Acting High Commissioner Ms. Urvashi Ramnarine (second from left), Dr. Natalie Johnson (back row, third from left), and members of the High Commission staff. **At right:** Acting High Commissioner Ms. Urvashi Ramnarine presented token to Dr. Natalie Johnson

MEMORIAL GATES CEREMONY MARKS 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF WWII

On 10 March 2025, a wreath-laying ceremony took place at London's Memorial Gates to honour the Commonwealth men and women who served with the British Armed Forces during the First and Second World Wars. The Memorial Gates, inaugurated by Queen Elizabeth II in 2002, recognise the 5 million volunteers from the Indian subcontinent, Africa, the Pacific Islands, the Caribbean and Nepal. They also celebrate the ongoing contributions of Commonwealth families and Nepal to the diversity of British society.

The year 2025 marked the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II. The Rt Hon Lord Boateng CVO, Chairman of the Memorial Gates Council, welcomed attendees. Sir Ben Okri read a poem, followed by a speech from Justin Maciejewski DSO MBE and a prayer by The Rt Rev Canon Dr. Anderson Jeremiah, Bishop of Edmonton.

Wreaths were laid by dignitaries on behalf of His Majesty the King, the Lord Lieutenant of Greater London, the House of Commons, the Commonwealth, and veterans. Mrs. Beverley Awonaya, representing the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission, laid a wreath at the Memorial Gates during the Commonwealth Day Ceremony.

Pictured: 1) Wreaths laid at the Memorial Gates in tribute to Commonwealth servicemen and women, **2)** Cross section of the dignitaries in attendence**, Photo courtesy The Commonwealth, 3)** Mrs. Beverley Awonaya,Public Affairs, Culture and Tourism, and Baroness Patricia Scotland, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth.

COMMONWEALTH COMMEMORATES 76 YEARS

Commonwealth Day 2025 was observed across the Commonwealth on Monday 10 March, with events taking place throughout March. Activities included civic and faith gatherings, school assemblies, debates, flag-raising ceremonies and cultural celebrations.

Fifty-six member countries came together to mark Commonwealth Day 2025 under the theme "Together We Thrive". The day reaffirmed the shared commitment to unity, peace and resilience among Commonwealth nations.

The Commonwealth Service, in its 76th anniversary year, took place at Westminster Abbey. The Service has been held at Westminster Abbey since 1972 and celebrates the people and cultures of Commonwealth nations, representing 2.4 billion citizens, almost one third of the world's population. Commonwealth countries span Africa, Asia, the Americas, Europe and the Pacific and include some of the world's largest, smallest, richest and poorest nations.

Above: A cross-section of flag bearers from various Commonwealth nations. **Photo courtesy The Commonwealth**

Commonwealth Day message excerpt from His Majesty the King: "Last October, leaders from across the Commonwealth came together in Samoa to reaffirm their belief in the value of the Commonwealth as a trusted forum. In these uncertain

times, it is all too easy to believe that our differences are problems instead of a source of strength. The Commonwealth's remarkable collection of nations and peoples come together in the spirit of support and friendship. As we mark this Commonwealth Day together, there is no more important task than to restore the disrupted harmony of our entire planet."

Ms. Urvashi Ramnarine, Minister Counsellor, represented the High Commission. Ms. Maya Kirti Nanan, Caribbean Regional Winner and Commonwealth Young Person of the Year 2023, carried the flag on behalf of Trinidad and Tobago.

Read the full Commonwealth Day message from His Majesty the King, Head of the Commonwealthhere: https://thecommonwealth.org/news/commonwealth-day-message-from-his-majesty-the-king

Pictured: 1) Procession and flags of all the Commonwealth nations move through the Abbey to places in Quire, Lantern, and Sacrarium**, 2)** His Majesty King Charles III flanked by The Very Reverend Dr. David Hoyle, The Dean of Westminster Abbey, and The Reverend David Stanton, Sub-Dean and Canon Treasurer**, 3)** Acting High Commissioner Mrs. Urvashi Ramnarine with Flagbearer Ms. Maya Kirti, **4) Photos 1,2&4 courtesy The Commonwealth**

T&T SHOWCASES FOOD AND BEVERAGE BRANDS AT FOOD AND DRINK EXPO 2025

The Trinidad and Tobago delegation participated in the Food and Drink Expo 2025, held in Birmingham from 7 to 9 April. The country was represented at the International Pavilion, where four Trinidad and Tobago companies showcased their products to an international audience.

Habanero Trinidad, KAIRI Chocolate, Savour De Isle and Twigs Naturals showcased premium products including chocolate, pepper sauce, artisan teas and coffee. The Expo enabled the companies to engage with buyers, distributors and industry professionals, while promoting the export potential of Trinidad and Tobago's food and beverage sector. Visitors to the Pavilion sampled products and explored opportunities for future business development.

Ms. Adanna Taylor, Commercial Officer, represented the High Commission and attended meetings with stakeholders and industry partners.

Pictured: 1-3) A cross section of the Trinidad and Tobago products displayed **4) (Second from right)** Ms. Adanna Taylor, Commercial Officer with representatives from Habanero Trinidad, KAIRI Chocolate, Savour De Isle and Twigs Naturals at the Trinidad and Tobago booth

TTAL STRENGTHENS TIES WITH UK TRAVEL TRADE AT UNITE CARIBBEAN 2025

As part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen Tobago's position as a prime travel destination for UK travelers, the Tobago Tourism Agency Limited (TTAL) recently participated in Unite Caribbean, an annual trade event held on Monday 10th March, 2025 in London.

Often viewed as a 'one-stop-shop' for UK and European-based tour operators and Caribbean suppliers, Unite Caribbean offered an intensive schedule of B2B discussions, with TTAL representatives meeting with over twenty (20) existing and new partners to strengthen marketing efforts while highlighting exciting tourism developments across the island. These included the opening of the new airport terminal, accommodation enhancements, new visitor experiences, and developments in Tobago's vibrant festival and ecotourism sectors.

Above: (top left) Mr. Stephen Smith, Sales and Marketing Manager with Ms. Nadine Rankin Joint CEO, AMG speaking with tour operators, **At left:** A cross section of tour operators participating in the Unite Caribbean trade event.**Photo: AMG**

The positive sentiment from UK-based tour operators and travel agents was evident, with many existing partners reporting increased bookings for 2025 compared to 2024—a promising indicator of Tobago's growing popularity among UK travellers. The meetings also provided an excellent platform for TTAL to pursue new partnerships and explore fresh marketing opportunities including new tours, bespoke travel packages, joint promotions and other collaborations to enhance the visitor experience.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO CELEBRATES CARICOM DAY IN LONDON

Pictured: 1) Acting High Commissioner Ms. Urvashi Ramnarine with other High Commissioners receives attendees, **2)** A cross section of the attendees at the Caricom Day reception, **3)** High Commission team members - Mr. Lawson Lovell, Ms. Beverley Awonaya, Ms. Michelle Charles, Ms. Luan John and Mr. Ethan Seales at the Trinidad and Tobago booth, **4)** H.E. Alexander Williams, High Commissioner of Jamaica hands over the CARICOM flag during the token hand over cermony, **5)** H.E. Cherie Nisbet, High Commissioner for Belize addressing attendees, **6)** Derby West Indian Community Association representatives, recipients of the Community Development Award.

Trinidad and Tobago, together with other CARICOM High Commissions, marked the 52nd anniversary of CARICOM with a reception on Thursday 3 July at the International Maritime Organization in London. The event commemorated the signing of the Treaty of Chaguaramas on 4 July 1973 and celebrated the unity, cooperation and cultural richness of the Caribbean Community.

The evening welcomed special guest the Honourable Shirley Barchwey, Secretary General of the Commonwealth. Prominent members of the Caribbean diaspora were also recognised for their achievements and impact across the wider Caribbean community.

Ms. Deiana Stapleton of St Vincent and the Grenadines received the Advocacy in Small States Award. As Chair of the National Council of St Vincent and the Grenadines, she raised over £250,000 in aid for those affected by the La Soufriere volcanic eruption and Tropical Storm Beryl. The Culture and Education Award was presented to Mr. Trix Worrell of St Lucia, creator of the acclaimed sitcom Desmond's, and a mentor to many young creatives. The Derby West Indian Community Association received the Community Development Award for its long-standing work, including organising the Derby Carnival for over 70 years.

Ms. Urvashi Ramnarine, Acting High Commissioner, led the Trinidad and Tobago delegation. Trinidad and Tobago's culture and cuisine were showcased, featuring steelpan music, art, carnival paraphernalia and national products, including Angostura rum. Guests were also invited to upcoming Carnival celebrations in 2026 and other events. The warmth of the CARICOM community was felt throughout the evening.

Pictured: (L-R) H.E. Rachér Croney, High Commissioner for Grenada, H.E. Karen-Mae C. Hill, OBE, High Commissioner for Antigua and Barbuda, Ms. Janet Charles, Acting High Commissioner for the Commonwealth of Dominica, H.E. Cherie Nisbet, High Commissioner for Belize, H.E. Paul A. Gomez, High Commissioner of Bahamas, Ms. Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey, Commonwealth Secretary General, H.E. Alexander Williams, High Commissioner of Jamaica, Ms. Urvashi Ramnarine, Acting High Commissioner of Trinidad and Tobago, H.E. Cenio E. Lewis, High Commissioner for St. Vincent and the Grenadines and H.E. Dr. Kevin Isaac, High Commissioner for Saint Kitts and Nevis

CARIB LAGER DRAUGHT CELEBRATES TRIUMPHANT UK LAUNCH

The Trinidad and Tobago High Commission in London was pleased to host the official UK launch of Carib® Lager Draught on Thursday 5 June 2025, celebrating a major milestone for one of the Caribbean's most recognised brands.

Held at the High Commission, the event welcomed members of the Caribbean diaspora alongside guests from the hospitality sector, trade and media. The launch introduced Carib® Lager Draught to the UK market, brewed locally using Carib's original recipe and offering a new way to enjoy the refreshing taste of the Caribbean. The occasion also marked Carib's 75th anniversary.

Guests enjoyed Caribbean-inspired cuisine, live steelpan music and the ceremonial first pour, creating an atmosphere that reflected the warmth and vibrancy of Trinidad and Tobago. Carib® Lager Draught is now available at select bars and pubs across London, with wider availability rolling out across the UK.

Above: Carib Lager draught dispensed on tap by a bartender

"*This moment is a cultural win,*" said Acting High Commissioner Ms. Urvashi Ramnarine. "*Having Carib on tap brings the spirit of Trinidad and Tobago closer to our community here in the UK. It's the taste of home.*"

Managing Director for International and Business Development at Carib, Mr. Adrian Sabga, added, "*We are proud to introduce this new format to the UK market. Our ambition is to make Carib the leading Caribbean beer on tap in the UK.*"

The High Commission is proud to support Carib's continued promotion of Trinidad and Tobago's culture and flavour abroad.

Pictured: 1) Ms. Adanna Taylor, Commercial Officer, Ms. Carielle Monsegue, Market Development Manager, Carib International UK, Mark Dawkins, Co-founder of Craftwork UK, Ms. Urvashi Ramnarine, Acting High Commissioner, Mr. Adrian Sabga, Managing Director for International and Business Development, Carib, **2)** Mr. Alex Cassidy and guest with costumed stilt walkers, **3)** Carol Valentine-Heath, Security Attaché with guests, **4-6)** Guests enjoying Carib Lager, live steelpan music and Caribbean-inspired cuisine. **Photos courtesy Carib Beer & Trinis in London**

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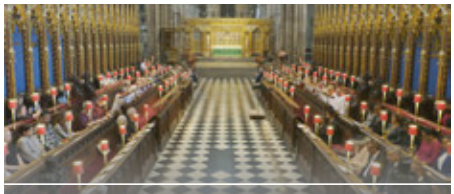
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO'S 63RD ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE EVENSONG SERVICE AT WESTMINSTER ABBEY

Above: (L–R) Her Excellency Anaïse Manuel, Ambassador of Haiti; Acting High Commissioner Ms. Urvashi Ramnarine (sixth from left); Mr. Raymond Butler, Immigration Attaché (back row, second from left); Ms. Cyeth Denton-Watts, Deputy High Commissioner of Jamaica (third from right); and Mrs. Rose-Anne Evelyn-Bates, Deputy High Commissioner of Saint Lucia (far right), with members of the High Commission staff and invited members of the diaspora.

A special Evensong was held at Westminster Abbey on Tuesday 2 September 2025 to mark the 63rd Independence Anniversary of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. The service formed part of an annual tradition hosted by the Dean of Westminster, The Very Reverend Dr. David Hoyle, and provided a moment of reflection, thanksgiving and prayer.

The service was attended by Acting High Commissioner Ms. Urvashi Ramnarine, members of the High Commission staff, members of the Diaspora and representatives of the diplomatic corps. Among those present were Her Excellency Anaïse Manuel, Ambassador of the Embassy of Haiti; Ms. Cyeth Denton-Watts, Deputy High Commissioner of Jamaica; and Mrs. Rose-Anne Evelyn-Bates, Deputy High Commissioner of Saint Lucia.

Prayers were offered for the people of Trinidad and Tobago, its national leadership, and the continued peace, prosperity and unity of the nation. The Evensong was also livestreamed and can be rewatched online via the High Commission is YouTube channel, allowing members of the wider community to share in this commemorative service.


WATCH THE VIDEO
Trinidad and Tobago Independence Day Evensong at Westminster Abbey, London:
https://youtu.be/cBuhG4XczsM

HIGH COMMISSION, LONDON CELEBRATES TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO'S 63RD ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE WITH AN INTERFAITH SERVICE 2025

Above: A cross section of the congregation at the Interfaith Service.

On Sunday 31st August, Acting High Commissioner Urvashi Ramnarine led members of the diaspora, members of the diplomatic corps, friends of Trinidad and Tobago and other well-wishers in thanksgiving, at the St Peter's Eaton Square in London.

The theme for the service was *Striving Towards Excellence As We Face The Future*. Participants on the day included Father Johnathan Kester, Vicar at St Peter's Eaton Square, Father Henderson George and Acting High Commissioner Urvashi Ramnarine.

Dr. Ozair Hasnain delivered the Reading on behalf of the Muslim faith, Archdeacon Daniel Foster and Bishop Owen delivered messages on behalf of the Spiritual Baptist faith, Ms. Beverley Reviero-Awonaya delivered the Reading on behalf of the Christian faith and Pundit Rajneesh Tulsi-Ramprasad on behalf of the Hindu faith. Petty Officer Kevin Joseph, Co-Chair Royal Navy Commonwealth Network took on the role of Flag-Bearer. Ms. Natasha Awuku-Williams delivered a sterling rendition of The Goodness of God and Come Jesus Come. Mr. Dexter Marchan on steelpan delivered a medley of patriotic songs. This was followed by a performance from calypsonians D'Alberto and Tobago Crusoe.

Acting High Commissioner Ms. Urvashi Ramnarine brought greetings from the Honourable Sean Sobers M.P. Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs.

Mr. Dexter Marchan provided entertainment on the steelpan in the Church courtyard while nationals partook of the sumptuous offerings provided by Ali's Caribbean Roti Shop which reflected the cuisine of Trinidad and Tobago.

Above: (From top) singer and pianist Natasha Awuku-Williams; panist Dexter Marchan; bhajan performers Radha Dharamdass, Pundit Rajneesh Tulsi-Ramprasad and Gobin Dwarika; and calypsonians D'Alberto and Tobago Crusoe. **Right:** Flag bearer leads the procession of the Celebrants down the aisle

Pictured : 1) Father Henderson George introduces the 2025 theme: *"Striving Towards Excellence As We Face The Future"*, **2)** Ms. Urvashi Ramnarine, Acting High Commissioner delivering greetings from the Honourable Sean Sobers M.P. Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs, **3)** Father Johnathan Kester and Ms. Jennifer Midgley-Adam, Assistant Priest, **4)** Dr Ozair Hasnain, **5)** Pundit Rajneesh Tulsi-Ramprashad, **6)** Bishop David Owen and Archdeacon Daniel Foster with members of Spiritual Baptist Community, **7)** Mrs. Beverley Awonaya, Public Affairs Culture and Tourism, **8-10)** A cross section of the congregation at the Interfaith Service, **11)** Tobago Crusoe performs, **12)** Ushers: Mr Ethan Sealy, Mrs. Beverley Awonaya, Ms. Rhonda Cox and Ms. Nadine Mohammed.

14) Ms. Urvashi Ramnarine, Acting High Commissioner greets nationals**, 15)** Mr. Rudolph Walker CBE signs his book *Walking With Dignity* for a national**, 16-19, 24&25)** Congregation gathers outside for refreshments, **20)** Mrs. Elizabeth Metivier speaking with Dr Ozair Hasnain, **21)** Pundit Rajneesh Tulsi-Ramprashad, Father Henderson George, Father Johnathan Kester, Ms. Jennifer Midgley-Adam, Assistant Priest, St Peter's Eaton Square, Ms. Urvashi Ramnarine, Acting High Commissioner, Bishop David Owen, Archdeacon Daniel Foster, Mrs. Beverley Reviero-Awonaya, Public Affairs Culture and Tourism, Petty Officer Kevin Joseph, Co-Chair Royal Navy Commonwealth, **22)** Ms Cyeth Denton-Watts, Deputy High Commissioner, High Commission of Jamaica and son, **23)** Ms. Patricia Poinen and Mr. Maharaj

ADVENTIST COMMUNITY CELEBRATES TRINIDAD & TOBAGO DAY IN LONDON

Pictured: 1) Mr. Nolan Victory, President of the Seventh-day Adventist Association; Pastor Christopher Williams; Mrs. Beverley Reviero-Awonaya, Public Affairs, Culture and Toursim; choir members Ms. Nyashia Williams, Ms. Louanne Modeste-Sampson and Ms. Rema Moore; and Mr. Floyd Felix, Committee Member, Seventh-day Adventist Association, **2)** Paster Leslie Moses, President Seventh-day Adventist Church, Trinidad delivers a prerecorded message from Trinidad and Tobago, **3)** Pastor Christopher Williams delivering a sermon, **Photos courtesy Clapton Community Seventh-day Adventist Church**

The Trinidad and Tobago British Adventist Association celebrated Trinidad and Tobago Day on 6th September at the Clapton Community Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) Church, Chelmer Road, Clapton, London E9 6AY.

The event was dedicated to raising much-needed support for "some community development initiatives". It was an opportunity to give back to Trinidad and Tobago and to bring together friends and well-wishers in a spirit of unity and service while reminding them of "home".

Pictured: Mrs. Beverley Reviero-Awonaya delivered greeting on behalf of the Acting High Commissioner Ms. Urvashi Ramnarine.

Ms. Beverley Reviero-Awonaya delivered greeting on behalf of the Acting High Commissioner Ms. Urvashi Ramnarine. Attendees were reminded that "As members of the diaspora, you are more than just citizens abroad. You are bridges—bridges between cultures, economies, and generations. Your contributions in education, business, the arts, and public service have uplifted not only your host countries but have also brought invaluable resources, ideas, and hope to our nation.

Today, we gather not only to share a meal but to invest in something meaningful. Whether the goal of this fundraiser is to support education, healthcare, infrastructure, or vulnerable communities back home, let us remember: we are planting seeds of change.

Every contribution made here today—financial or otherwise—is a declaration of belief. Belief that we are not helpless in the face of challenges. Belief that progress is possible. Belief that when we come together as a people, nothing is beyond our reach"

"On behalf of the High Commission for Trinidad and Tobago, I thank you for your unwavering commitment, for keeping the flame of patriotism alive abroad, and for showing what it means to be a global citizen with local roots. May we continue to work together in faith, in hope, and in solidarity. Thank you, and may our collective efforts continue to bear fruit in the lives of those we serve".

The presence of the High Commission lent encouragement and inspiration to the Association's efforts, while reminding them of the strong ties that bind our diaspora community to home.

FROM INDENTURESHIP TO DIASPORA: NARRATIVES OF MIGRATION AND SOUTH ASIAN IDENTITY

On 14th October 2025, Northumbria University, in partnership with North East Museums, hosted the international conference From Indentureship to Diaspora: Narratives of Migration and South Asian Identity. The High Commission of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago in London is proud to highlight this important scholarly and cultural event, which explored the histories, genealogies, and enduring legacies of Indian indentureship and the global South Asian diaspora.

A central focus of the conference was the experience of descendants of indentured labourers, whose journeys shaped societies across the Caribbean, the Indian Ocean, Africa and beyond. Particular emphasis was placed on Trinidad and Tobago, where the legacy of indentureship remains foundational to national identity, culture and social development. The conference also explored later patterns of migration that forged enduring links between former colonies and regions such as the North East of England.

Reflecting on the significance of the discussions, Her Excellency Ms. Urvashi Ramnarine, Acting High Commissioner for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Kingdom, noted: *"Understanding the legacy of indentureship is essential to appreciating the rich diversity of Trinidad and Tobago and its diaspora. Conferences such as this ensure these histories remain visible, relevant and shared across generations."*

The conference was brought to fruition through the leadership of a Trinidadian academic and cultural advocate, ensuring Caribbean perspectives were meaningfully embedded within the programme. This helped centre Indo-Caribbean lived experience, scholarship and cultural memory within wider global discussions on migration and identity.

Discussions also examined the North East of England's historic role in shipbuilding, including vessels used in the transportation of indentured labourers across the British Empire. By linking local and global histories, the conference encouraged inclusive heritage interpretation, further research and community engagement.

Above: Mrs. Pat Poinen addresses attendees, reflecting on a photograph of her great-grandmother and grandparents, linking indentureship to shipbuilding on the River Tyne. **Right:** The photograph which is on permanent display Mrs. Patricia Poinen with her Great Grandmother and grandparents. **Photos courtesy Patricia Poinen**

A career diplomat, Acting High Commissioner Ms. Urvashi Ramnarine had previously served at Trinidad and Tobago's High Commission in India, the Consulate General in New York, and as Director for the Americas Division at the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs. Her presence underscored Trinidad and Tobago's leadership in diaspora engagement, cultural diplomacy, and the preservation of shared historical memory.

Left: Conference speakers with the Vice-Chancellor of Northumbria University and the Acting High Commissioner.
Back row (L–R): Mr. Shamshu Deen, Dr. Edward Anderson, Dr. Henry Dee, Professor Stephen Taylor.
Front row (L–R): Mrs. Patricia Poinen, Acting High Commissioner Urvashi Ramnarine, Professor Andy Long FREng, Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive of Northumbria University, and Dr. Seshni Moodliar Rensburg.
Not pictured: Dr. Malya Bhattacharya, Dr. Jerome Teelucksingh.
Photo courtesy Pat Poinen

INSPIRATIONAL WOMEN TRAIL: DR. BEVERLEY PREVATT-GOLDSTEIN – FEATURED AT NORTHUMBRIA UNIVERSITY

The We Are Here: Inspirational Women Trail, *created by the community-led Exchange Steering Group, highlights 16 women who shaped the North East in medicine, science, academia and activism. Dr. Beverley Prevatt-Goldstein is featured for her work in racial justice, social work and community leadership. The trail is part of the Exchange project, funded in 2022 by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and led by National Museums Scotland and the National Maritime Museum.*

Dr. Beverley Prevatt-Goldstein was born in Belmont, Trinidad, in 1950. Following the death of her mother in 1959, she migrated to England with her two sisters. While her elder siblings attended boarding school, Beverley lived with her aunt and uncle, an experience she recalls as formative, grounded in education, church life and community values.

An outstanding student, she became one of the first Black British women to study at the University of Oxford in 1968, earning a BA (Hons) in History. At a time when there were few Black students and no Black lecturers, she became active in anti-apartheid movements and served as Treasurer of the Joint Action Committee Against Racial Intolerance. These experiences shaped her lifelong commitment to racial justice and led her into social work.

In the early 1990s, Dr. Prevatt-Goldstein relocated to Newcastle and joined Durham University as a lecturer in social work. She trained generations of professionals in foster care, anti-racism and equality, and worked closely with foster carers through the Fostering Network. She also contributed to the work of the British Association of Social Workers and the General Social Care Council.

Left: Dr. Beverley Prevatt-Goldstein, **Photo: Discover Museum**, **Above: (L-R)** Acting High Commissioner Ms. Urvashi Ramnarine, Dr. Beverley Prevatt-Goldstein and Ms. Patricia Poinen**. Photo: Patricia Poinen**

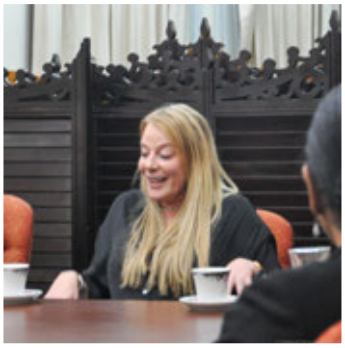
In 2001, she became the first Chief Executive Officer of the Black Ethnic Community Organisations Network, advocating for the Black voluntary sector at regional strategic level. She later chaired the North East of England African Community Association.

Dr. Prevatt-Goldstein has authored over 25 academic papers and continues her legacy through the African Lives in Northern England project. She is also featured in the Discovery Museum's Inspirational Women Trail.

The Mission wishes to invite submissions from the Diaspora on various topics which may include short stories, poems and other interesting tidbits on life here and back home for possible inclusion in the newsletter.

Email: hclondonPACT@foreign.gov.tt

TRANSPLANT LINKS COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING UK–TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO PARTNERSHIP IN KIDNEY TRANSPLANT CARE



Pictured: 1) Baroness Floella Benjamin, OM, DBE, DL Introduces each member at the table; **2)** Dr. Aimee Jewitt-Harris, CEO, Transplant Links; **3)** Ms. Nathalie Walters, Foundation Director, The Samworth Trust; **4)** Mr. Sam Dutta, Consultant Kidney Transplant Surgeon, Nottingham; **5)** Acting High Commissioner Urvashi Ramnarine, addresses the table as Ms. Rosemary Lamb, Consultant Kidney Transplant Surgeon, Nottingham, is pictured alongside.

A meeting introducing the partnership between Transplant Links Community (TLC) and the National Organ Transplant Unit of Trinidad and Tobago (NOTU), supported by The Samworth Foundation, was held on November 17, 2025 at the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission, London. The Patron of Transplant Links, Trinidad and Tobago's very own Baroness Floella Benjamin OM DBE DL, led the meeting.

The partnership aims to develop sustainable living-donor kidney transplant programs in Trinidad and Tobago through ongoing skill transfer, teaching, and support from NHS specialists. This initiative builds on past efforts by the NOTU, which has been performing renal transplants in Trinidad and Tobago since 2006. The collaboration highlights a commitment to medical education and health initiatives that can deliver transformational change in healthcare provision globally.

The Samworth Foundation is sponsoring the current UK-based training of Dr. Namorah Bobb, a surgeon from Trinidad and Tobago, originally based at the Eric Williams Hospital, Mt Hope, Trinidad and Tobago.

Transplant Links Community (TLC) is a UK registered charity that provides hands on training and mentoring in kidney transplantation for healthcare professionals in low and middle-income countries.

Pictured: Dr. Namorah Bobb, a visiting Surgical Fellow from Trinidad and Tobago, training to become a transplant surgeon in Nottingham

TLC originally started in 2007 as a grassroots community comprised of a small group of healthcare professionals who used their annual leave to travel to share their skills with colleagues in LMICs. It is now an international organisation with a medical faculty of over 50 volunteer clinicians working collaboratively with a network of emerging transplant units all over the world. The aim is to assist in the development of sustainable, ethical living-donor transplant units so that more patients around the world can have access to this life saving treatment.

The Charity works with partner countries like Trinidad and Tobago to provide tailored support, hands-on surgical assistance, skill transfer during in-country visits, placements and observerships for healthcare professionals in established UK transplant units. The Charity also helps with developing necessary infrastructure, patient information materials, and online educational resources. The Charity also lobbies government officials to ensure

long-term support and sustainability of transplant programs. his initiative builds on past efforts by the NOTU, which has been performing renal transplants in Trinidad and Tobago since 2006.

The Samworth Foundation is an independent, family grant-making charitable trust based in the East Midlands, UK, which funds projects in the United Kingdom and internationally. The Foundation was established in 1973 by Sir David and Rosemary Samworth.

Since its inception the Foundation has supported a wide range of projects and organisations, including the establishment and development of three academies across Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire, work to tackle the exploitation and abuse of women and children, the protection and restoration of our natural world, and emergency responses to people facing humanitarian crisis.

Now working with the next generation of Samworth family members, with the aim of supporting the following generation with their giving, the Foundation continues to provide funding to organisations making a real difference to the wellbeing of people and the environment. The Samworth Trust's sponsorship of the fellowship demonstrates a commitment to medical education and health initiatives that can deliver transformational change in healthcare provision.

The attendees included Baroness Floella Benjamin, Patron of Transplant Links, Mr. Keith Taylor, Ms. Aimee Jewitt-Harris, CEO of Transplant Links, Dr. Jennie Jewitt-Harris, Founder and Director of Medical Activities, Transplant Links, Michael Brodsky, Project Manager, Transplant Links, Ms. Rosemary Lamb, Consultant Kidney Transplant Surgeon, Nottingham, and the primary trainer for Dr. Namorah Bobb, Mr. Sam Dutta, Consultant Kidney Transplant Surgeon, Nottingham, Dr. Namorah Bobb, a visiting Surgical Fellow from Trinidad and Tobago, training to become a transplant surgeon in Nottingham, Ms. Caroline Samworth, Trustee of The Samworth Trust, which sponsored Dr. Bobb's fellowship and Ms. Nathalie Walters: Foundation Director, The Samworth Trust.

The meeting focused on the progress and support for developing sustainable living-donor transplant units in LMICs through skill transfer and education, a core mission of Transplant Links. The Samworth Trust's sponsorship of the fellowship demonstrates a commitment to medical education and health initiatives that can deliver transformational change in healthcare provision.

The Acting High Commissioner Urvashi Ramnarine lauded the positive impact of this initiative for improving health in Trinidad and Tobago whilst praising the efforts of the partnerships between the different entities.

Above: Ms. Nathalie Walters, Foundation Director of The Samworth Trust, discusses the charitable initiatives of the Samworth Foundation.

Front row (L-R): Baroness Floella Benjamin, OM DBE DL, Patron of Transplant Links, Acting High Commissioner Urvashi Ramnarine, Ms. Nathalie Walters, Foundation Director, The Samworth Trust, and Mr. Sam Dutta, Consultant Kidney Transplant Surgeon, Nottingham.
Back row (L-R): Dr. Jennie Jewitt-Harris, Founder and Director of Medical Activities, Transplant Links, Ms. Caroline Samworth, Trustee of The Samworth Trust, Ms. Aimee Jewitt-Harris, CEO of Transplant Links, Dr. Namorah Bobb, Surgical Fellow from Trinidad and Tobago, Ms. Rosemary Lamb, Consultant Kidney Transplant Surgeon, Nottingham, and Mr. Michael Brodsky, Project Manager, Transplant Links.

Trinidad and Tobago Nationals, Register Today!

Simply scan the QR code or visit: bit.ly/tt-nationals-registration
to download the National Registration form, complete it and submit to us.

Our main goal is to use this information to update you on upcoming events and important topics for people living in the UK and other accredited countries. Your participation matters!

A TRIBUTE TO THREE CENTENARIANS: TINA APARICIO, PRINCE ALBERT JACOB AND SHEILA YVONNE RAMSAY

As Trinidad and Tobago continues to celebrate the enduring legacy of its people overseas, the High Commission in London pays tribute to three remarkable centenarians whose lives reflect service, resilience and an unwavering connection to their homeland. Tina Aparicio, Prince Albert Jacob and Sheila Yonne Ramsay each represent a generation that helped shape modern Britain while carrying Trinidadian values across borders.

Albertina Aparicio: A Legacy of Care and Service

Born in Trinidad on 31 January 1925, Ms. Albertina Aparicio dedicated her life to education, healthcare and community service, leaving a remarkable legacy that spanned continents and generations. She began her professional journey as a teacher before migrating to the United Kingdom in 1958 to train as a nurse, responding to Britain's post-war need for skilled professionals.

Arriving in Plymouth at the age of 33, Ms. Aparicio secured her first nursing post with the support of a close friend and went on to complete her training in general nursing and midwifery. Her career as a midwife was defined by compassion, resilience and professionalism. Over the course of her service, she delivered more than 2,000 babies, many through home births, providing reassurance and care to families at some of life's most significant moments.

As a member of the Windrush generation, Ms. Aparicio faced racial discrimination within the NHS, yet she remained steadfast in her commitment to her profession and the communities she served. Her work took her across Essex as a community midwife, where she was promoted to Sister and played an important role in training future midwives. She also worked at the Royal Free Hospital in London and later returned briefly to Trinidad before continuing her career in the UK.

Ms. Aparicio retired in 1988 at the age of 63 and remained a respected and admired figure in her community. She celebrated her 100th birthday in January 2025 and passed away in April 2025. Her contributions to the NHS, Caribbean heritage in Britain, and the many lives she touched will be remembered with deep gratitude and respect.

Pictured: 1) Ms. Albertina Aparicio**, 2)** Ms. Aparicio with a new mother. Over her three-decade career as an NHS midwife, she delivered more than 2,000 babies**, 3)** Family, friends, and former colleagues gathered in Essex to celebrate Ms. Aparicio's milestone birthday. Front row (L–R): her son Mr. John Aparicio, Mr. Leslie Sebastian Charles MBE, known professionally as Billy Ocean**. Photos courtesy John Aparicio**

Prince Albert Jacob: Royal Air Force Veteran and Windrush Pioneer

Mr. Prince Albert "Jake" Jacob was born in Port of Spain in 1925 and, at just 17 years old, volunteered to serve in the Royal Air Force during the Second World War. Selected in Jamaica, he travelled to the United States for specialist training before being posted to Britain, where he served at Royal Air Force (RAF) Kirkham, Burtonwood and Carlisle as part of the ground crew responsible for aircraft maintenance and logistics.

Following the war, Mr. Jacob returned to Trinidad and Tobago but found limited opportunities despite his service. In 1947, he resettled in Britain, becoming one of the earliest members of the Windrush generation. His post-war life was marked by resilience in the face of racism and social exclusion, particularly after marrying Mary, a White British woman, in 1953. Together they built a life in Birmingham, overcoming hostility to establish a stable and loving family home.

Professionally, Mr. Jacob enjoyed a successful career at the Post Office, rising to the rank of Inspector and supervising a large team. Beyond work, he distinguished himself as an accomplished athlete, winning regional sprint titles and representing Great Britain at the 1950 Maccabiah Games in

Israel, where he earned two silver medals.

In retirement, he continued to serve through voluntary work with the probation service. Now one of the last surviving Caribbean RAF veterans of the Second World War, Prince Albert Jacob stands as a powerful symbol of service, dignity and perseverance.

Pictured: 1) Mr. Prince Albert Jacob**, 2)** Mr. and Mrs. Jacob's wedding photo**, Photos: Prince Albert Jacob, 3)** (L–R) Ms. Beverley Awonaya, Ms. Carol Valentine-Heath, Security Attaché, Mr. Prince Albert Jacob, and Mr. Lawson Lovell in front of Squadron badges at the Royal Air Force Club, **4)** Ms. Paulette Simpson, CEO of The Voice Newspaper; Mr. Prince Albert Jacob; Dr. Les Johnson, Founder and Chairman of the National Windrush Museum.

Prince Albert Jacob's 100th birthday was celebrated on 15 July 2025 by the National Windrush Museum in collaboration with the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund, attended by senior Royal Navy, Army, and RAF personnel and specially invited guests.

Sheila Yvonne Ramsay: Matriarch, Entrepreneur and Legacy Keeper

Mrs. Sheila Yvonne Ramsay, a proud Trinidad and Tobago-born citizen, celebrates 100 years defined by family, enterprise and cultural continuity. Born and raised in Trinidad, she later migrated to the United Kingdom, settling in Kensal Rise, London in the early 1960s. Her early years in Britain were shaped by both joy and hardship, including the tragic loss of her mother during a visit to London amid the infamous smog.

A devoted mother and determined provider, Mrs. Ramsay worked as a home help for Westminster Council while raising her children. Her entrepreneurial spirit soon emerged. In the 1970s, she established her own business, most memorably operating an ice cream van during a turbulent period in Notting Hill's history. Her quick thinking during the 1976 unrest ensured her family's safety and reflected her strength under pressure.

Over the decades, Mrs. Ramsay balanced business with family life, becoming a grandmother and later a great-grandmother. She remained active well into retirement, trading at markets and travelling regularly between Trinidad and the UK. Despite experiencing significant personal loss and a diagnosis of vascular dementia in later life, she continues to engage with family, music and community through day centres and regular interaction.

Mrs. Ramsay's wider family legacy includes military service in the RAF during the Second World War and notable contributions to Caribbean cultural history in Britain and Trinidad and Tobago. Today, she is cherished as the matriarch and bedrock of her family, a living testament to resilience, love and Trinbagonian pride.

Pictured: 1) Ms. Sheila Yvonne Ramsay outside the family home, Cocorite, Trinidad, c.1949–1950, **2)** Ms. Sheila Yvonne Ramsay at Hampstead Heath, UK, c.1955**, 3)** Front row: (L–R) The Worshipful The Mayor of Brent, Councillor Ryan Hack, Ms. Sheila Yvonne Ramsay, Ms. Laura-Denise Ramsay-Overall and Ms. Dawn Butler MP (Brent). Back row: Distinguished guest and civic representative. **Photos courtesy Laura Denise Ramsay-Overall**

ACROSS THE LIVES OF THREE CENTENARIANS: A SHARED T&T–UK CENTURY

Their individual stories sit within a wider historical journey shared by many Trinidad and Tobago nationals of their generation.

1925

Born Under British Colonial Rule

Trinidad and Tobago was a British colony, shaping education, identity & future migration pathways for a generation born into empire.

1939-1945

World War 2 & Caribbean Service

Trinbagonians served Britain, notably in the RAF, strengthening the war effort and forging lasting ties between Trinidad and Tobago and the UK.

1945–1948

Post-War Britain Needs Workers

Severe labour shortages led Britain to recruit from the Caribbean, opening the door for migration in healthcare, transport & public service.

1948

The Windrush Era Begins

The arrival of Caribbean migrants marked the start of a wider post-war movement from Trinidad and Tobago and across the region, reshaping Britain's workforce, culture and society.

1950s-1960s

Trinbagonians Build Britain's Future

Across multiple migration waves, Trinbagonians worked in healthcare, industry and public service, while Notting Hill communities and Black Power movements shaped identity, culture and resistance.

1962

Trinidad and Tobago Independence

Independence reshaped national identity, connecting Trinbagonians at home and abroad while maintaining strong people-to-people links with Britain.

NIGEL GUY RECOGNISED AS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT FINALIST AT UK 2025 BLACK TECH ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Mr. Nigel Guy, a Transformation Director from Trinidad and Tobago, was recognised as a finalist for the Lifetime Achievement Award at the UK 2025 Black Tech Achievement (BTA) Awards. The recognition marked a significant milestone in a career spanning nearly three decades of leadership in technology, data and digital transformation.

Pictured: Mr. Nigel Guy.

Photo: BTA Awards 2025 | A&O Studios

With over 25 years of experience across financial services and telecommunications, Mr. Guy has led complex business and data strategies, large-scale system integrations and advanced AI initiatives. He has held senior leadership roles at organisations including Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC) Bank International, KPMG, Teradata and Capgemini, working across global financial institutions, telecommunications providers and Fortune 500 companies. His expertise spans AI and machine learning, cloud computing, FinTech, data governance, RegTech and high-speed digital infrastructure.

At the time of the awards, Mr. Guy served as Director and Head of Data Migration and Data Transition at SMBC Bank International, where he focused on AI-driven solutions to support enterprise-wide transformation. Having worked across more than 35 countries, his approach consistently integrates people, process and technology to deliver scalable, future-ready outcomes.

In reflections shared on his LinkedIn post following the announcement, Mr. Guy noted: *"Being named a finalist for the Lifetime Achievement Award was a true honour. Throughout my career, the focus has been on leading meaningful transformation, bridging technology and business strategy, mentoring teams, and delivering solutions that create lasting impact."*

The BTA Awards celebrate excellence, leadership and innovation in the UK technology sector. The Lifetime Achievement Award recognises sustained contribution to the profession. The 2025 finalists included Nigel Guy, Erika Brodnock MBE and Wendy Sabaroche, with Professor Erika Brodnock MBE announced as the recipient.

The awards ceremony took place in March 2025 at the JW Marriott Grosvenor House in London.

DR. SEETAHAL-MARAJ EARNS HIGHEST UK FRCS NEUROSURGERY HONOUR

On 13 March 2025, Dr. Panduranga Dattatreya Seetahal-Maraj received the prestigious Norman Dott Medal for exceptional performance in the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons (FRCS) Neurosurgery examinations, having achieved the highest overall marks in the United Kingdom. He is the first Caribbean doctor to attain this distinction in the highly rigorous FRCS assessments. Although the examinations were completed in 2023, the award was formally presented at a felicitation ceremony held earlier this month in Belfast, Ireland.

Pictured: Dr. Panduranga Dattatreya Seetahal-Maraj with the Norman Dott Medal at the felicitation ceremony in Belfast, Ireland.

Photo: Panduranga Dattatreya Seetahal-Maraj

At the ceremony, Dr. Seetahal-Maraj presented the UK's first and largest case series on fetoscopic repair of neural tube defects, underscoring his contribution to advancing neurosurgical practice and research.

A neurosurgeon at the San Fernando General Hospital, Dr.

Seetahal-Maraj is employed by the South West Regional Health Authority (SWRHA) and is currently on leave of absence. He is presently serving as a Senior Clinical Fellow at King's College Hospital, London, where he is midway through a paediatric neurosurgery fellowship programme. Dr. Seetahal-Maraj's excellence has been evident throughout his career. A former National Scholarship winner in Science, he has authored several papers published in local, regional and international medical journals.

Edited from https://www.guardian.co.tt/news/trinidadian-doctor-wins-top-honours-in-uk-neurosurgery-exams-6.2.2263441.8ce6876b6a

T&T SCOTTISH POET ANTHONY VAHNI CAPILDEO WINS WINDHAM-CAMPBELL PRIZE

On 3 March 2025, Trinidadian-Scottish poet Anthony Vahni Capildeo was announced as a recipient of the Windham-Campbell Prize, one of the world's most prestigious literary awards, valued at US$175,000.

The Windham-Campbell Prizes honour eight writers globally each year for outstanding achievement across four categories: fiction, non-fiction, poetry and drama.

Capildeo was recognised for their distinguished body of work, including the Forward Prize-winning and T.S. Eliot Prize-shortlisted Measures of Expatriation.

Above: Anthony Vahni Capildeo
Photo: Windham Campbell Prizes

Their writing is acclaimed for its precision and depth, and for its engagement with themes of belonging, identity and gender.

This recognition continues Trinidad and Tobago's strong legacy within the Windham-Campbell Prizes. Previous recipients include Marlene Nourbese Philip (Poetry, 2024), Dionne Brand (Fiction, 2021) and André Alexis (Fiction, 2017).

Further information on the Windham-Campbell Prizes and the full list of recipients is available at windhamcampbell.org.

Edited from https://windhamcampbell.org/festival/2025/recipients/capildeo-anthony-v

OPERA SINGER ANNE FRIDAL PERFORMS AT WINDSOR CASTLE FOR COMMONWEALTH STUDY CONFERENCE DINNER

Soprano Ms. Anne Fridal was invited to perform for an audience of distinguished leaders from across the Commonwealth at the 2025 Commonwealth Study Conference (CSC) Presidential Council Appreciation Dinner, held on 15 April at Windsor Castle. The event celebrated leadership, service, and the enduring legacy of the Duke of Edinburgh's Commonwealth Study Conferences, founded in 1956.

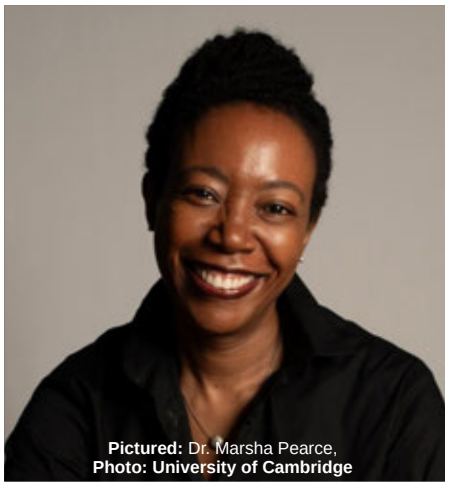
Hosted by Her Royal Highness Princess Anne, Patron-in-Chief of the CSC, the dinner brought together alumni and emerging leaders from diverse sectors to reflect on leadership, industry, and community engagement. Introductory remarks were delivered by Major David Clarke CVO, Director of the Commonwealth Study Conferences Canada. Inspiring remarks followed from Mr. Agnes Di Leonardi, President of CSC Canada; Mr. Wes Hall, Jamaican business leader; and Ms. Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey, Secretary-General Elect of the Commonwealth.

During the programme, Ms. Fridal showcased the culture and artistry of Trinidad and Tobago. Her repertoire spanned opera, musical theatre, and a medley of "Calypsopera", a form she created to present Calypso in an operatic style, featuring works by Aldwyn Roberts (The Lord Kitchener). She also briefly spoke with Princess Anne about the beauty, art, and cultural heritage of Trinidad and Tobago.

Ms. Fridal shared that she was captivated by the historical portraits, grandeur, and traditions of Windsor Castle, bringing a Caribbean voice to a celebration of Commonwealth leadership and international collaboration.

From left: HRH Princess Anne, Patron-in-Chief of CSC, greets soprano Anne Fridal.

Soprano Anne Fridal performs with accompanist Professor Waiyin Lee at Windsor Castle.
Photos: Fergus Burnett



Pictured: Dr. Marsha Pearce,
Photo: University of Cambridge

DR. MARSHA PEARCE TAKES PIONEERING RESEARCH PROJECT TO THE FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM CAMBRIDGE

On 30 April 2025, Trinidad and Tobago cultural studies scholar Dr. Marsha Pearce was announced as a recipient of a British Academy Global Professorship (2024) for her pioneering research project, Trembling Abode: Reimagining the Museum as Home for Global Majority Artists. The announcement was first made by Corpus Christi College, University of Cambridge, and was followed on 12 May 2025 by confirmation from the Fitzwilliam Museum, which formally welcomed Dr. Pearce as one of two Global Professors awarded to the University of Cambridge for the 2024 cycle.

The highly competitive award, valued at £881,950, supports internationally recognised scholars undertaking cutting-edge research in the United Kingdom. As part of the four-year appointment, Dr. Pearce formally joined the Fitzwilliam Museum and the University of Cambridge in September 2025.

Her project explores questions of belonging, representation, and institutional transformation, reimagining museums as inclusive spaces of care and engagement for Global Majority artists. Central to the research is the strengthening of academic and creative relationships between the Caribbean and the United Kingdom, ensuring Caribbean perspectives are embedded within international cultural institutions.

Above: The outside view of the Fitzwilliam Museum Portico in Cambridge, **Photo: Fitzwilliam Museum**

Dr. Pearce holds a PhD in Cultural Studies and a Bachelor's degree in Visual Arts from the University of the West Indies. She has held senior academic leadership roles at UWI and contributed to cultural policy and museum governance in Trinidad and Tobago. Her curatorial work includes collaborations with major international institutions and exhibitions. She has published widely across Caribbean studies, visual culture and diaspora scholarship.

Edited from https://www.ccc.cam.ac.uk/news/item/global-professorships-2024-awards-dr-marsha-pearce-at-the-fitzwilliam-museum/

SHAKA HISLOP RECOGNISED AT DOWNING STREET FOR ANTI-RACISM LEADERSHIP

Above: Rt Honourable Sir Keir Starmer MP, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom with former Trinidad and Tobago-born international footballer and broadcaster Shaka Hislop CM.
Photo: Simon Dawson / No 10 Downing Street

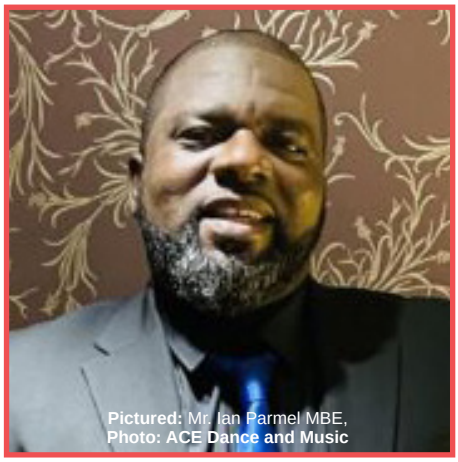
Trinidad and Tobago-born former international footballer and broadcaster Shaka Hislop was honoured for his contribution to anti-racism advocacy at the Show Racism the Red Card (SRtRC) Hall of Fame induction ceremony, held at 10 Downing Street on 2 June 2025. The event, hosted by UK Prime Minister The Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer MP, recognised Mr. Hislop's pioneering role in co-founding SRtRC in 1996, a charity that has reached more than 1.3 million people across schools, workplaces, and football stadiums in the UK.

Prime Minister Starmer commended both the charity's impact and Mr. Hislop's leadership in using education and sport to challenge racism. Referencing the racist abuse faced by members of England's national football team after the Euro

2021 final, the Prime Minister said: "Just as we think that we've made great strides forward, there's a brutal reminder: not so fast. Don't be complacent."

He added: "*You're not just invited to be here — you are entitled to be here. Put your fingerprints on the next policy… to make sure that we together shape a better future.*" Highlighting football's broader role, the Prime Minister noted: "*Football is for everyone. It gives people a leg up with skills, employability, and confidence*," citing initiatives such as Arsenal's Twinning Project and the Dirt Is Good campaign as examples of sport fostering social impact. Mr. Hislop's work with SRtRC uses football and education to promote inclusion, challenge discrimination, and raise awareness about the importance of equality in sport and society. The charity continues to engage communities across the UK, inspiring young people and equipping them with the knowledge and confidence to combat racism. Established in 1996, Show Racism the Red Card remains the UK's leading anti-racism educational charity, with Mr. Hislop's decades-long commitment continuing to shape its vision. His recognition at Downing Street celebrates his leadership and the charity's sustained impact on education, sport, and society.

Edited from https://www.theredcard.org/news/srtrc-hall-of-fame-2025/



Pictured: Mr. Ian Parmel MBE,
Photo: ACE Dance and Music

ACE DANCE & MUSIC CEO IAN PARMEL HONOURED WITH MBE IN KING'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS 2025

Mr. Ian Parmel, co-founder and CEO of Birmingham's acclaimed Black-led dance company ACE Dance and Music, has been honoured with the Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in His Majesty The King's Birthday Honours 2025.

For nearly 30 years, Mr. Parmel has created transformative opportunities in dance and music for children and young adults, championing cultural exchange and supporting Black artists across the UK. Since moving to Britain from Trinidad and Tobago in 1991, he has drawn on his rich heritage and experiences with arts programmes in Trinidad and Tobago, inspiring him to co-found ACE Dance and Music in 1997 with his wife, Mrs. Gail Parmel, who also received an MBE in 2020.

Under Mr. Parmel's leadership, ACE Dance and Music has become a leading national force in dance, promoting African diaspora dance forms and raising aspirations among Black young people. Many successful artists, including Jamaal Burkmar, Rudi Cole, Júlia Robert Parés, Xhosa Cole, and Iona Waite, have been mentored and influenced by his vision.

Mr. Parmel said, *"I am truly honoured and humbled to receive this recognition. Coming from a small village in Trinidad, my journey in the arts has been long and rewarding. I share this honour with my fellow artists, collaborators, young people, and everyone who has supported ACE Dance and Music over the years."* Mr. Paul Udenze, Chair of ACE Dance and Music, added, *"Ian's dedication and vision have made a profound impact on the arts community. This well-deserved honour reflects his tireless commitment to excellence and the inspiration he continues to provide to artists and young people alike."*

Looking ahead, Mr. Parmel remains focused on creating new opportunities for future generations, including the development of performance and studio spaces to ensure ACE's legacy continues to grow. ACE Dance and Music, a valued National Portfolio organisation supported by Arts Council England, is recognised as one of the UK's leading dance organisations.

Edited from https://acedanceandmusic.com/ceoawardedmbe

Pictured: Carl Gabriel potrait
Photo: Daniel Charles | Westminster City Council

CARL GABRIEL HONOURED AS A LOCAL HERO IN WESTMINSTER

Editted from **STEPHANIE COLEMAN | SOCANEWS**

Illuminated portraits at bus stops across North Paddington are celebrating residents who make a positive impact as part of Westminster City Council's Local Heroes campaign. The initiative highlights individuals whose dedication strengthens care, safety, and opportunity across the city.

Mt Carl Gabriel, a Trinidad and Tobago carnival technician, is renowned for his wire-bending and papier-mâché creations, including a mermaid costume for the Junior Queen of Paddington Arts made from recycled materials. He also mentors young artists, passing on traditional skills and helping them develop their own style. Other honourees include Eartha Johnson, founder of the ESP Foundation and Girls Allowed, who runs girls' football, mentorship, and sustainability projects, and Jacqui Williams, manager of the North Paddington Food Bank, providing meals, legal assistance, and advocacy, particularly following the Grenfell tragedy.

The portraits showcase these everyday champions whose work strengthens Westminster communities and inspires others to make a difference. By celebrating local heroes, the campaign highlights the value of community engagement and the positive contributions of residents across the city.

Learn more about Westminster's Community Champions - https://www.westminster.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/your-health/community-champions

Pictured: Carl Gabriel potrait illuminated at bus stop in North Paddington, London. **Photo: Daniel Charles | Westminster City Council**

YOUNG ACHIEVERS

ATRAUMATIC GRADE FIVE RENAL INJURY: CASE REPORT BY DR. PHAEDRA RAMPERSAD PUBLISHED IN THE BMJ

Pictured: Dr. Phaedra Rampersad, **Photo: Phaedra Rampersad**

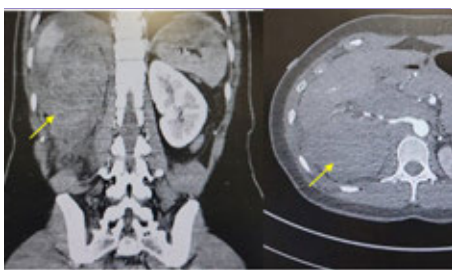
Dr. Phaedra Rampersad, an emergency medicine physician from Trinidad and Tobago, has had her case report, *Atraumatic Grade Five Renal Injury*, published in the British Medical Journal (BMJ). The report details a rare and complex case encountered in the Emergency Department that initially appeared minor but revealed life-threatening internal injuries, highlighting the importance of vigilance in emergency care.

Dr. Rampersad, brings extensive experience in acute care, trauma management, and emergency diagnostics. Her publication demonstrates how subtle clinical signs can mask serious conditions, offering critical learning points for clinicians worldwide and helping prevent potential life-threatening mistakes.

Reflecting on the case, she said, "Emergency medicine is full of cases that appear ordinary and suddenly aren't. This particular encounter stayed with me long after my shift ended. Sharing what I learned with the wider medical fraternity can help avoid life-threatening mistakes."

Dr. Rampersad also highlighted how her Trinidad and Tobago upbringing shaped her approach to medicine. "Growing up in a small, diverse, and community-oriented society teaches you to see patients as individuals with stories, families, and cultural layers — not just as cases. Limited resources encourage creativity, critical thinking, and teamwork. And our national watchwords — discipline, production, and tolerance — are values I carry into my practice every day."

She added advice for aspiring clinicians: "Don't ever forget where you come from. Seek mentors, ask questions, and hold on to the values you grew up with. Medicine is demanding, but it is also a calling rooted in service, compassion, and lifelong learning." Dr. Rampersad also credited the faith instilled in her upbringing: "Without God, I am nothing. The prayers of my family and ancestors have carried me this far."



Read the full research report: https://casereports.bmj.com/content/18/12/e267504

At left: X-ray scans from Dr. Rampersad's atraumatic Grade V renal injury case report, with yellow arrows highlighting the affected area of the kidney. **Photo: Phaedra Rampersad | BMJ**

Pictured: Ms. Chalisa Guerrero, **Photo: Chalisa Guerrero**

CHALISA GUERRERO CREATING STYLE MOMENTS ON PAGE AND STAGE

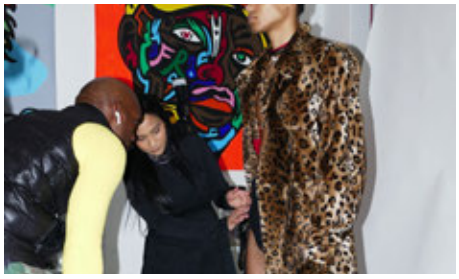
Ms. Chalisa Guerrero is a rising force in the fashion industry, known for her independence, creative leadership, and ability to turn vision into impact. Entering the industry without a traditional roadmap, she built her career through self-taught expertise, strategic networking, and a relentless work ethic, carving out space in London's highly competitive fashion scene.

Her journey from freelance stylist to Fashion Director of House of Solo Magazine reflects years of determination and creative growth. In her role, Chalisa helps shape the editorial direction of one of the UK's most influential independent fashion titles. She oversees high-concept editorials and plays a key role in identifying and supporting emerging talent poised to define the next generation of fashion creatives. Beyond editorial, Ms. Guerrero is an integral part of Fashion Crossover London, where she serves as a Show Director and Stylist on the official London Fashion Week schedule. She provides creative leadership to emerging international designers, guiding them through the complexities of the UK fashion industry and supporting their debut on one of the world's most visible fashion stages. Known for her calm approach under pressure, she expertly manages the fast-paced realities of live runway production.

In February 2026, Ms. Guerrero led the styling for a major showcase at Milan Fashion Week (Women's Fall/Winter 2026–27). The project, presented in collaboration with Geoff Cooper and the SAGABOI team. The project celebrated West Indian subculture and Saga Boy rebellion. For Chalisa, the event was both a moment of creative expression and national pride, bringing Caribbean storytelling to Italy's luxury fashion capital and demonstrating that Caribbean creativity is a world-class standard.

Reflecting on her journey, Ms. Guerrero says, *"My journey is about more than styling a look. It's about creating moments," Chalisa says. "I started by learning through action. Now, my goal is to inspire others to work hard, dream big, and believe that anything is possible."*

Learn more about Chalisa Guerrero: Website: www.chalisaguerrero.com and on Instagram: @chalisaguerrerostylist



Pictured: Ms. Chalisa Guerrero with Geoff Cooper styling a model at Milan Fashion Week. **Photo: Gerard Butler**

Pictured: Ms. Shana Thomas, Ms. Clayanne Knott, Mr. Shawn Melville and Mr. Ronald Ammon. **Photos: British High Commission, Port of Spain**

FOUR T&T NATIONALS WIN CHEVENING SCHOLARSHIPS

Four nationals from Trinidad and Tobago have been awarded the prestigious 2025/26 Chevening Scholarships to pursue master's degrees in the United Kingdom. The recipients are: Ronald Ammon (MSc in Engineering Management, University College London), Shana Thomas (MSc in City Planning and Real Estate Development, University of Glasgow), Clayanne Knott (MSc in Sports and Exercise Medicine, Queen Mary University of London), and Shawn Melville (MSc in Climate Change, Sustainable Business and Green Finance, University of Reading).

Selected from a pool of 90,000 applicants, these scholars exemplify leadership, innovation, and dedication. The British High Commission in Trinidad and Tobago, in partnership with the Proman Foundation, supports Chevening Scholarships to strengthen expertise in critical sectors such as energy, sustainability, urban planning, sports innovation, and health.

Spotlight on the Scholars

- Shana Thomas, programme director for rural development in the Tobago House of Assembly, will focus on accessible, climate-resilient housing for vulnerable communities.
- Clayanne Knott, a medical doctor

trained at St George's College and the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, will specialise in sports and exercise medicine, supporting local athletics, athlete welfare, and education across the Caribbean.

- Shawn Melville brings over 14 years' experience in construction, energy, and sustainability, focusing on climate action, renewable energy, and digital advocacy.

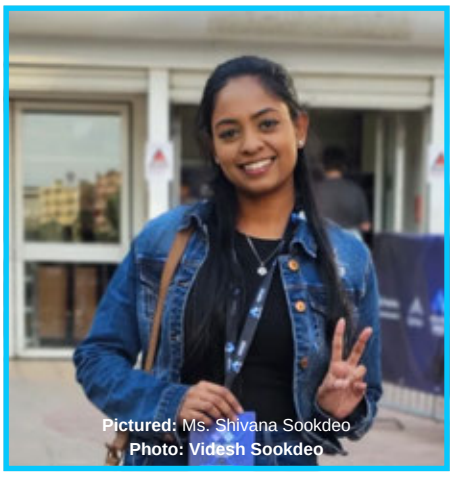
- Ronald Ammon, initially on the reserve list, was upgraded to full scholarship and will pursue Engineering Management at University College London.

On 27 August 2025, the Honourable Sean Sobers, Minister of Foreign and CAICOM Affairs joined His Excellency Jon Dean, High Commissioner for the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, in recognising the scholars. Minister Sobers said, *"We congratulate these outstanding nationals and look forward to the positive impact they will make upon their return, contributing to a stronger, smarter, and more resilient Trinidad and Tobago."* His Excellency Dean added, *"Their success reflects the UK's enduring commitment to education, sustainability, and our strong bilateral ties with Trinidad and Tobago."*

These scholars are poised to contribute to the nation's growth through their advanced studies and future leadership.

Pictured: Mr. Ronald Ammon, Ms. Shana Thomas, His Excellency Jon Dean, High Commissioner for the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland , Ms. Giselle Thompson, Deputy Managing Director of Proman Trinidad, the Honourable Sean Sobers, Minister of Foreign and CAICOM Affairs, Mr. Shawn Melville and Ms. Clayanne Knott.
Photo: MFCA

T&T GAMER SHIVANA SOOKDEO MAKES HER MARK AT EVO FRANCE 2025

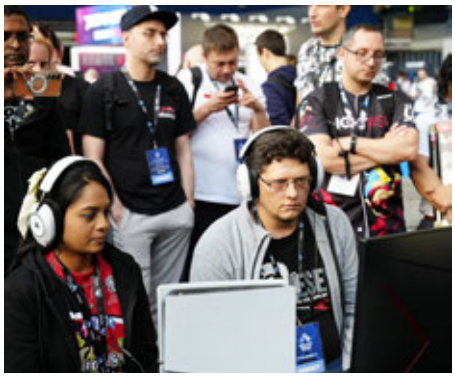


Pictured: Ms. Shivana Sookdeo
Photo: Videsh Sookdeo

From casual matches with her brothers to the global stage, Ms. Shivana Sookdeo's esports journey reflects passion, precision and perseverance. The Trinidad and Tobago competitor began gaming at age five and made her competitive debut in 2014 with Tekken Tag Tournament 2. Over the years, she has achieved notable placements at major regional events, including:

- Fight Fest (2015) – 2nd place
- Alias Expo (2015) – 3rd place
- Baddest Man in T&T (2018) – 1st place
- Game On VII (2018) – 2nd place
- Galactakon / Great Gaming Lounge (2023) – 1st place
- Abena Tournament: Guadeloupe Edition (2025, All Female Tekken 8) – 1st place

Her victory in Guadeloupe earned her the title of Caribbean Women's Champion and the opportunity to represent the region at EVO France 2025, the first European edition of the world's most prestigious fighting game event held in Nice. At EVO France, Ms. Sookdeo competed against elite players from around the world in Tekken 8 and other titles, where she placed Top 16, marking a historic achievement for a Caribbean female gamer. The overall tournament was won by top international competitors such as Arslan Ash of Pakistan in the Tekken division.



Reflecting on her journey, Ms. Sookdeo said that competitive gaming requires analytical thinking, strategy and deep knowledge, and that being part of the EVO experience was a milestone for her and for Esports in Trinidad and Tobago. She continues to advocate for greater sponsorship and support for local players, noting that enhanced funding and opportunities are key to growing the community and enabling more Caribbean competitors to reach international stages.

Edited from https://newsday.co.tt/2025/05/25/female-gamer-represents-trinidad-and-tobago-on-regional-esport-stage; Instagram @ggl.trinidad

At left: Ms. Shivana Sookdeo competing at the GGIC Giga Games Guadeloupe, where she placed first. **Photo: GGIC Giga Games Guadeloupe**

DIASPORA CELEBRATES TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO CUISINE AND CULTURE AT DOUBLES & VIBEZ IN BRIXTON

Pictured: 1) Trinidad and Tobago High Commission staff (L–R): Ms. Luan John, Acting High Commissioner Urvashi Ramnarine and son, Ms Nadine Mohammed, Mr. Jermaine Pascall, Immigration Attaché, Ms. Beverley Reviero-Awonaya and Mr. Ethan Sealy, **2)** Performances on the day included drumming, steelpan, and general mix of music styles, including calypso, soca, chutney, provided by DJs, **3–5)** A cross-section of attendees at the Doubles & Vibez event, **6)** Winners: Taste D Vibez Limited, **7)** Ms. Beverley Reviero-Awonaya presenting a gift hamper, donated by the High Commission and featuring Trinidad and Tobago items, to the raffle winner. **Photos 2,3,6&7 courtesy Trinis in London**

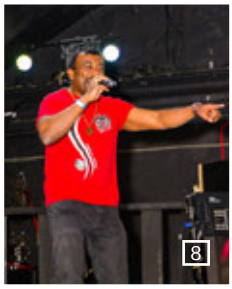
Trinidad and Tobago High Commission, London, was aptly represented at the JUST VIBEZ - Doubles & Vibez event held at the Hootananny, Brixton on Sunday 1st June. The Doubles Vibez was held to showcase the cuisine and culture of Trinidad and Tobago and to share it with the wider community.

The event presented an ideal opportunity for the High Commission to engage with the diaspora. Officers from the High Commission included the officers from the Public Affairs, Culture and Tourism Department together with officers from the Immigration Department. The Acting High Commissioner Ms Urvashi Ramnarine who hailed the event as a huge success led the officers.

Congratulations to the doubles vendors that participated, with Taste D Vibez winning the doubles competition and Sweet Hand Cuisine in second place. There were seven doubles chefs and their helpers from across the UK representing Trinidad, Guyana and the United Kingdom competing for the Doubles and Vibez Trophy on the day. Attendees were asked to vote on five categories, which included Bara, Channa, Sauces, Presentation and Taste. The High Commission presented a hamper together with My Trini Shop and Karibbeanvybez. Music was played on the steelpan and tassa. The event also featured DJs, Churney soca, card games, a Black History stall, and various activities for families and children.

Trinidad and Tobago's culture was in full swing!

For the full photo gallery, please visit: https://www.trinisinlondon.com/envira/just-vibezdoublescomp



8&9) Deenish Rampartap performs popular chutney songs to the delight of attendees.

Photos courtesy Trinis in London

BARKING TOWN SQUARE COMES ALIVE WITH THE BARKING & DAGENHAM CARNIVAL

Pictured: 1&2) Masqueraders parading through the streets of the city centre and on the Barking and Dagenham Carnival stage**, 3)** Moko Somõkõw Moko Jumbies, **4**) Mayor of Barking and Dagenham, Councillor Princess Bright with volunteers and masqueraders, **5)** Triniboi Joocie performing to the delight of the audience, **6)** Stepney All Saints School Steel Orchestra**, 7)** Community groups participating in hands-on workshops in the lead-up to the Carnival, **8)** Children attendees participating in hands-on workshops, **9)** African drumming and costumed performance**, 10)** *We Mas* Carnival Exhibition at The Barking Learning Centre: created by We Mas and Tracey Sankar**. Photos courtesy Trinis in London & UKON Careers**

Edited from **UKONCAREERS.COM**

The Barking and Dagenham Carnival celebrated its 10th anniversary on Saturday 12 July 2025 at Barking Town Square, bringing together residents, families, and visitors for a vibrant showcase of culture, creativity, and community spirit. What began as a small children's celebration has grown over the past decade into a well-established, intergenerational event welcoming people of all ages and abilities.

The 2025 theme, Together We Grow – A Greener Future, reflected a strong commitment to sustainability and unity. Inspired by the Barking and Dagenham Borough Manifesto, One Borough, One Community. No-one left behind, the carnival highlighted the role of music, movement, and creativity in strengthening connections between people, communities, and the environment.

The programme featured performances by international carnival artists, street dancers, and local school groups, alongside a lively Carnival Village. Attendees took part in hands-on workshops including costume-making, steel pan, tamboo bamboo, and African drumming. A range of family-friendly activities, community stalls, and interactive experiences ensured the event remained accessible and inclusive throughout the afternoon.

Over the past ten years, the Barking and Dagenham Carnival has played an important role in developing carnival arts, encouraging intergenerational participation, and creating opportunities for skills development and career pathways in the creative industries. The festival has also demonstrated the wider social impact of carnival arts, supporting wellbeing, education, and community cohesion.

Delivered by UKON Careers, the 2025 carnival marked a significant milestone, celebrating a decade of cultural expression while reinforcing the importance of creativity in building stronger, more connected communities.

SYBIL MARJORY ATTECK (1911–1975): TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO'S LEADING 20TH-CENTURY MODERNIST

Sybil Marjory Atteck, BFA CMG (1911-1975) is recognized both nationally and internationally as Trinidad and Tobago's leading 20th century modernist artist, groundbreaking female artist, and as the first National Grand Master of Art during the 1960's and early 1970's. Atteck firmly established, secured, and influenced the nation's fine arts capabilities and capacity pre-, during, and post-independence. For her lifetime of accomplishment, leadership, and eminent contribution to the advancement of Fine Arts in Trinidad and Tobago Atteck received the Chaconia Medal (Gold) in 1973, In the years after her death Atteck's legacy and art have endured. Atteck's artworks have continually been featured in major national art collections, on her nation's postage stamps, at numerous national events, and at local and international art exhibitions.

Atteck was not only an accomplished artist, but a highly qualified art teacher, instructing and guiding thousands of the nation's youth and emerging artists. She was Art Mistress at St. Joseph's Convent in San Fernando, St. Joseph's Convent in Port of Spain, Bishop Anstey High School (BAHS), Holy Name Convent and St. Francois Girls' College in Port of Spain. She taught art classes at the Trinidad Art Society, as well as the Extramural Department of the University of the West Indies and lectured at numerous Art Centres across the Caribbean.

Atteck's art has been featured in a publication by Phaidon Press entitled *Great Women Painters*, 2022, that surveyed over 300 painters from over 60 countries, spanning 5 centuries and included Sybil Atteck among only three women from the Caribbean region. Several recent major art exhibitions that features Atteck include: The 2017 - 2018 exhibition entitled *Circles and Circuits*, in Los Angeles, California, USA; in 2021 at the 100th anniversary of Bishop Anstey High School; in 2021, *Fragments of Epic Memory* at the Art Gallery of Ontario, Canada; and 2021, *MAS ALLA, EL MAR CANTA (Beyond, the Sea Sings)* at the Times Art Centre in Berlin, Germany, and most recently a retrospective exhibition featuring over 90 artworks was presented at the Art Gallery of Burlington, Ontario, Canada.

Atteck's legacy is three-fold. First, there are her collective artworks which reflect the nation of Trinidad and Tobago. Second, there is the Art Society of Trinidad and Tobago which is the first formal arts-based institution of its kind, and oldest continuously active society for over 80 years, in Trinidad and Tobago. Third, there are the multitude of artists that were either her students or were influenced and encouraged to come to the forefront of the art community in Trinidad and Tobago and the British Caribbean. Fourth, and most importantly, Atteck accomplished many first for her nation: First to become a professional artist in her nation's history. First to hold a Solo Exhibition in the history of Trinidad and Tobago in 1948, First to accomplish 3 solo exhibitions in three continental regions in a single year, and first Caribbean artist to show at the Royal Academy in London England in 1955, to name a few.

Her nephew, Mr. Keith Atteck, has been researching and documenting the life and artistic legacy for the past half a decade and documented over 740 of her artworks and is writing a detailed biographic text. His trip to England in June 2025 discovered another 10 artworks and photographed the two beautiful paintings at the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission in London. It is thanks to the staff, including Mrs. Beverley Reviero-Awonaya, Public

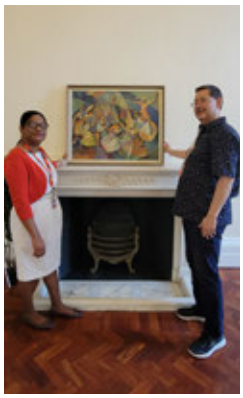
Above: Mr. Keith Atteck, nephew of Sybil Marjory Atteck, presents a copy of Painters in Paradise to High Commissioner Urvashi Ramnarine, in front of *Dancers (1961)*, painting on canvas by Sybil Marjory Atteck. **At right:** *Mangrove Swamp (c. 1968)*, painting on canvas by Sybil Marjory Atteck.

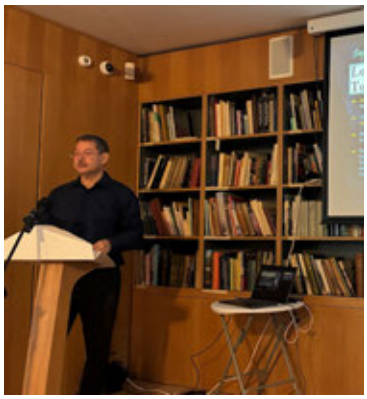
Affairs, Culture and Tourism Department of the High Commission and the support of the Acting High Commissioner Ms. Urvashi Ramnarine that these artworks can be incorporated into a comprehensive database documenting the artistic legacy of Atteck and her contribution to Trinidad and Tobago. Keith hopes to publish his manuscript in conjunction with a major exhibition in England in the next few years with the support of the High Commission and other sponsors.

Pictured from left:

In the High Commission of Trinidad and Tobago | 2 June 2025 - Ms. Beverley Awonaya, Public Affairs Culture and Tourism and Mr. Keith Atteck.

At The Whitworth, Manchester, UK | 12 June 2025 - Mr. Keith Atteck, nephew of Sybil Marjory Atteck, delivers a talk on her legacy, influence on Caribbean modernism, and her portrait of Althea McNish held in The Whitworth's collection. **Photo: Artworkarchive.com/profile/sybil_atteck**





CARNIVAL UNPLUGGED III CELEBRATES STEELPAN AND CARNIVAL HERITAGE IN LONDON

Pictured: 1) Joshua Regrello – pannist and Guinness World Record holder for the longest continuous steelpan performance, **2)** JIC Steelpan Academy**, 3)** Mr. Justin Thomas, JUST INCARNIVAL (standing in centre) addresses a cross section of the attendees, **4)** Anne Fridal with accompaniment, **5)** theatre dancer Valeria Alexandra **6)** Triniboi Joocie performing his hit songs **7)** Amy Thomas vocalist. **Photos: KamKing Media**

Editted from **STEPHANIE COLEMAN | SOCANEWS**

As part of Black History Month 2025, JUST INCARNIVAL Arts and Culture presented Carnival Unplugged III, a sold-out performance at Arts Depot in North London that marked Joshua Regrello's first live show in London.

The evening featured the Trinidad and Tobago steelpan musician, who is also the Guinness World Record holder for the longest continuous steelpan performance — a 31-hour marathon set on 27 December 2024. Hosted in the Studio Theatre, the programme used live music and storytelling to explore the history of Carnival and the cultural significance of the steelpan across the Caribbean.

The production blended steelpan showcases, unplugged acoustic pieces, and spoken reflections, offering audiences an intimate and educational experience. Guest performers soprano Anne Fridal, soca artist Triniboi Joocie, JIC Steelpan Academy, vocalist Amy Thomas and theatre dancer Valeria Alexandra, who brought her own artistic style to the stage, added further musical texture to the programme, contributing to a rich and varied celebration of Carnival arts.

Founded in 2022, JUST INCARNIVAL Arts and Culture is a North London–based organisation dedicated to preserving and sharing Caribbean Carnival traditions in the UK. Its work spans masquerade, steelpan, calypso, and soca through performances, workshops, and community engagement. Held on Saturday 11 October 2025, Carnival Unplugged III sold out ahead of the performance, reflecting strong public interest. Following the show, on his social media accounts Joshua Regrello described the night as a milestone moment in his career and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to make his London debut.

BLUE PLAQUE TO HONOUR T&T'S ICON AND ACTIVIST CLAUDIA VERA JONES

Trinidad and Tobago High Commission was proud to be part of the celebrations which took place at Camden Council Town Hall on Thursday 26th June to honour Claudia Vera Jones with a Blue Plaque.

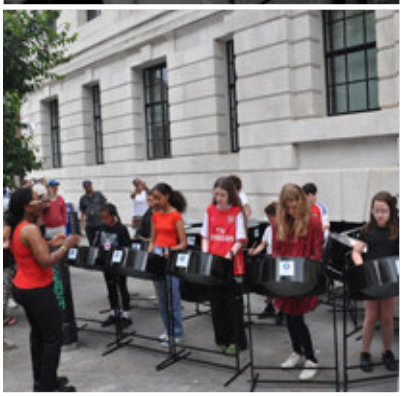
The blue plaque celebrates the UK's first Caribbean Carnival, which took place at Camden Town Hall on 30 January 1959 – a ground-breaking national event that later inspired the iconic Notting Hill Carnival.

Claudia Vera Jones, born in colonial Trinidad on 21 February 1915, is one of Trinidad and Tobago's pioneering activists, representing a string of such nationals who have contributed and continue to contribute to life in the UK.

During the 1950s, amid rising racial tensions which escalated into the Notting Hill riots, activist Claudia Jones organised the first Caribbean Carnival to provide a joyful, defiant safe space for cultural expression and community resilience.

Held at the Town Hall and televised by the BBC, the carnival featured steel bands, calypso singing, a beauty pageant, a banquet of food and many more Caribbean traditions. The carnival was so successful it continued in London for five years, eventually inspiring the Notting Hill Carnival – one of the world's largest street festivals, attracting millions of visitors and contributing £93million to London's economy every year.

The Trinidad and Tobago High Commission was represented by Mrs. Beverley Reviero-Awonaya and Mr. Lawson Lovell, Public Affairs, Culture and Tourism Division at the unveiling of the Blue Plaque honouring Claudia Jones for the UK's first ever Caribbean Carnival.



Above: Blue plaque unveiled at Camden Council Town Hall, **At Right:** Ms. Claudia Vera Jones, **Photo: AP Photo/Anthony Camerano, Below:** Camden Youth Steel Band performing outside the Camden Council Town Hall, **Bottom: Ms** Zerritha Brown, Camden Council's Head of Culture**,** Mrs. Beverley Reviero-Awonaya, Trinidad and Tobago High Commission**,**Ms. Allyson Williams MBE, Co-Founder of Genesis Mas**,** Mahogany Carnival Arts masquerader**,** Cllr Eddie Hanson, Mayor of Camden, Cllr Sabrina Francis, Cabinet Member for Jobs, Young People and Culture, Ms. Linett Kamala, Founding Director of Lin Kam Art, and Cllr Nadia Shah, Cabinet Member for Voluntary Sector, Equalities and Cohesion

BLUE PLAQUE TO HONOUR T&T'S MUSICIAN AND PIONEER HAROLD "LORD WOODBINE" PHILLIPS

A commemorative blue plaque was unveiled on Friday 29 August 2025, at The Jacaranda, Liverpool, to honour Mr. Harold Adolphus Phillips, professionally known as Lord Woodbine.

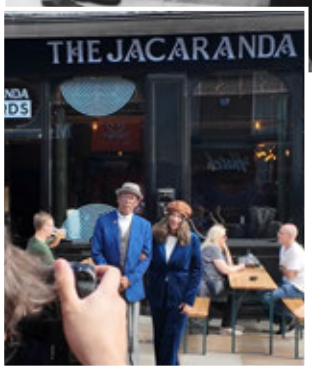
Born in Trinidad and Tobago in 1929, Lord Woodbine came to Britain in 1943 and served as a Royal Air Force flight engineer during the Second World War. Returning on the HMT Empire #Windrush in 1948, he later settled in Liverpool where he

Pictured: Blue plaque unveiled at The Jacaranda, Liverpool, **Photo: Andrew Teebay | Liverpool Echo, At Right:** Mr. Harold Adolphus Phillips, professionally known as Lord Woodbine**, Photo: Carol Phillips**

performed as a musician, #calypsonian, composer, and band leader, and managed The Jacaranda Club.

Lord Woodbine was a pioneering figure in Britain's post-war cultural landscape and played an important role in shaping the early music career of The Beatles. He was the first singer-songwriter John Lennon and Paul McCartney encountered and helped create the musical environment that inspired their earliest songs.

The unveiling ceremony included contributions from Mr. Graham Stanley, Managing Director at The Jacaranda, Mr. Hudson Phillips and Mrs. Carol Phillips, Lord Woodbine's children, Councillor Barbara Murray, Lord Mayor of Liverpool, Mr. Arthur Torrington CBE of the Windrush Foundation, and Dr. James McGrath of Leeds Beckett University. Calypsonian Alexander D' Great performed "Song for Lord Woodbine", and Mr. Tony Henry, the journalist who produced a radio documentary about Lord Woodbine in 1998, also spoke.



Above: Lord Woodbine, seated, with Allan Williams, his wife Beryl and The Beatles in Hamburg, August 1960, **Photo: Keystone Features/Getty Images.**

At left: Mr. Hudson Phillips and Mrs. Carol Phillips, Lord Woodbine's children, at the unveiling ceremony at The Jacaranda. **Andrew Teebay | Liverpool Echo,**

WINIFRED ATWELL HONOURED WITH ENGLISH HERITAGE BLUE PLAQUE

The Trinidad and Tobago High Commission was proud to join celebrations in London on Wednesday 1st October 2025 as internationally renowned pianist Winifred Atwell was honoured with an English Heritage Blue Plaque.

The plaque marks 18 Bourdon Street, Mayfair, where Atwell lived at the height of her extraordinary career in the 1950s and 60s with her husband and manager, Lew Levisohn. According to English Heritage, it was here she kept her two most famous instruments: her Steinway concert grand and her beloved 'other piano' – a deliberately out-of-tune upright that became her signature in countless honky-tonk performances.

Winifred Atwell, born in Tunapuna, Trinidad and Tobago, in c.1910, was a trailblazing musician and the first black artist to top the UK charts. Her electrifying ragtime and boogie-woogie style, paired with classical virtuosity, made her a household name. She spent 117 weeks in the British pop charts between 1952 and 1960, appeared on over 100 BBC radio programmes, and fronted her own shows on ITV and BBC television. Her energetic rendition of the 'Black and White Rag' later became the theme tune for the BBC snooker programme Pot Black.

YolanDa Brown OBE DL, musician, broadcaster, and English Heritage blue plaques panel member, said: "Winifred Atwell

Pictured: Blue plaque unveiled at No. 18 Bourdon Street, Mayfair, where Atwell lived, **Top Right:** Winifred Atwell, **Bottom right:** Jools Holland OBE DL unveling the blue plaque, **Bottom:** YolanDa Brown OBE DL welcoming attendees

was a dazzling performer and a true trailblazer. Her virtuosity, charisma and entrepreneurial spirit broke racial and musical barriers in mid-century Britain. This plaque in Mayfair – close to her recording studios, television sets and business premises – is a tribute to a woman whose legacy deserves far greater recognition in British music."

Jools Holland OBE DL, pianist, bandleader and broadcaster, said: "Winifred Atwell is very important in British cultural and musical life. She is one of the first women, and certainly one of the first women of Afro-Caribbean heritage to become a mainstream figure in 1950s British entertainment. She was also a piano inspiration to both Sir Elton John, myself, and many others. It is therefore a tremendous personal honour for me to help celebrate her legacy with a blue plaque."

Beyond her musical achievements, Atwell was a forward-thinking entrepreneur. She opened one of the UK's first salons for black women and launched a line of beauty products, drawing on her earlier training as a pharmacist. Her success and public profile made her an inspiration, especially to the Caribbean diaspora in Britain and Australia, where she later settled.

The unveiling, which celebrated Winifred Atwell's enduring legacy as a pioneering performer, entrepreneur, and cultural icon, was attended by a delegation from the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission. Its representatives included Acting High Commissioner Ms. Urvashi Ramnarine, Mrs. Beverley Reviero-Awonaya, and Mr. Lawson Lovell.

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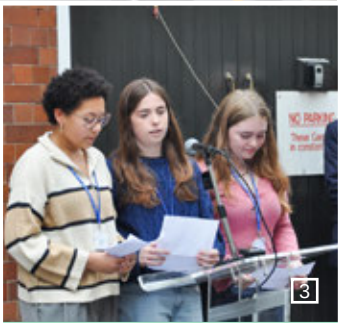
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Pictured: (L-R) Acting High Commissioner Ms. Urvashi Ramnarine, Mr. Orphy Robinson MBE, Ms. YolanDa Faye Brown OBE DL, Mr. Julian Miles Holland OBE DL, Mr. Leslie McGregor "Leee" John, Student Representatives of the Voices Project, Sir Richard Henry Simpson Stilgoe OBE DL (owner of Winifred's famous "other piano"), and Ms. Katiann Barros Rocha, Co-founder of The Halo Collective.

BLUE LAQUES HONOURING TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO FIGURES

Ten UK blue plaques now commemorate Trinidad and Tobago figures across music, culture, sport, activism, and design, recognising nationals of their generation. These plaques have been installed by English Heritage, the Nubian Jak Community Trust and local civic partners.

2004
C. L. R. JAMES
(1901–1989)
Writer & Historian
165 Railton Road, Brixton, London SE24
(English Heritage)

2011
CLAUDIA JONES
(1915–1964)
Activist & Carnival Pioneer
Tavistock Road / Portobello Road, Notting Hill, London
(Nubian Jak Community Trust)

2011
FRANK GILBERT CRICHLOW
(1932–2010)
Community Activist, Mangrove Founder
8 All Saints Road, Notting Hill, London
(Nubian Jak Community Trust)

2013
SIR LEARIE CONSTANTINE
(1901–1971)
Cricketer, Lawyer & Statesman
101 Lexham Gardens, Earls Court, London W8
English Heritage

2020
WINIFRED ATWELL
(1910–1983)
Pianist & Entrepreneur
Railton Road, Brixton, London
(Nubian Jak Community Trust – commemorating her beauty salon)

2022
DARCUS HOWE
(1943–2017)
Civil Rights Campaigner & Broadcaster
167 Railton Road, Brixton, London SE24
(Nubian Jak) Community Trust)

2023
ALTHEA MCNISH
(1924–2020)
Textile Designer & Artist
West Green Road, Tottenham, London
(Nubian Jak Community Trust)

2025
CLAUDIA JONES
(1915–1964)
Journalist & Activist
6 Meadow Road, Vauxhall, London
(English Heritage)

2025
WINIFRED ATWELL
(1910–1983)
Pianist & Entertainer
18 Bourdon Street, Mayfair, London
(English Heritage)

2025
HAROLD *"LORD WOODBINE"* PHILLIPS
(1929–2010)
Musician, Calypsonian & Bandleader
The Jacaranda, Liverpool
(Civic Commemorative plaque)

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO CUISINE SHOWCASED AT THE CCL CENTENARY COMMONWEALTH FAIR

Pictured: 1) Ms Carol Valentine-Heath, Security Attaché and Acting High Commissioner Ms Urvashi Ramnarine selling food and drinks to patrons, **2)** Ms Michelle Charles speaking to a patron, **3)** Ms Dawn Elie-Forde, Adminstrative Attache serving corn soup to patrons, **4)** High Commission staff members restocking the bar area, **5)** Ms Rasheda Morton serving pelau, **6)** Ms Terri Gay, owner of Terri's Foods, serving Trinidad and Tobago cuisine, **7)** Representatives from the Jamaica High Commission at their booth, **8)** Attendees enjoying cultural performances on stage throughout the evening

On Saturday 8 November, the Commonwealth Countries League Fair was held at the Kensington Town Hall, London. The Fair is organised by the Commonwealth Countries League to raise funds for the Commonwealth Girls Education Fund, which uses the money raised to educate underprivileged girls throughout the Commonwealth.

Above: (L-R) Acting High Commissioner Urvashi Ramnarine with High Commission staff and (back row, second from left) Mr Gerard Ali, owner of Ali's Caribbean Roti Shop, Uxbridge.

Marking its centenary, the Fair gathered strong support from many Commonwealth countries and related private organisations. The event celebrated a century of friendship and shared purpose, under the theme 'Unity in Diversity: Celebrating 100 Years of the Commonwealth'. The colourful and vibrant stalls reflected the richness and diversity of the Commonwealth, providing visitors with a great and unforgettable experience, featuring food, craft, music, and entertainment.

Trinidad and Tobago's booth, consistent with previous years, promoted and sold many mouth-watering and unique dishes. The selection included corn soup and pelau. The customary vegetable, chicken, and goat roti, and doubles were prepared and sold in collaboration with Ali's Caribbean Roti Shop - Uxbridge. All the dishes proved a favourite with the crowd.

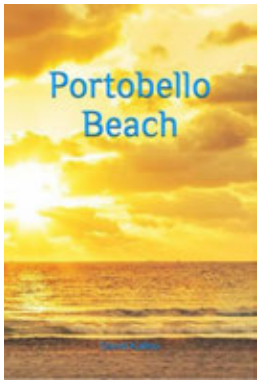
A number of drinks were available, including Rum Punch, Sorrel Rum Punch, Carib, and Sorrel drink. Other tourism items were given away at the booth.

Acting High Commissioner Urvashi Ramnarine expressed great delight at the success of the booth.

Writer's Corner

Author David Kalloo unveils Portobello Beach, an eclectic and emotionally resonant collection of short stories that celebrates the small triumphs, tangled loves, and lyrical mischief of islanders and those in the diaspora. The book offers a poignant and playful look at what it means to straddle two worlds — geographically, emotionally, and culturally.

From whispered secrets on windswept shores to the quiet ache of longing across continents, Portobello Beach is a meeting place of accents, dreams, and memories that refuse to fade. With a voice both lyrical and mischievous, David invites readers into stories that will make them smile, ache, and maybe call their mother.



PORTOBELLO BEACH

DAVID KALLOO

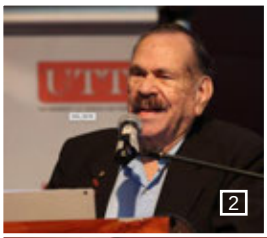
Whether you're an expat, a dreamer, or someone who's ever felt caught between places, Portobello Beach offers a literary homecoming.

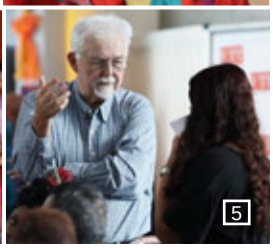
Born in Port of Spain and based in London since 1989, David holds degrees in Caribbean and Media Studies and International Relations. He has served in leadership roles within the carnival and cultural sector, including the World Carnival Commission and the Notting Hill Carnival Pioneers Festival, and is the founder of Culturepulse magazine. He is the author of Green Mango Chow, Jumbie in Town, Hitchhiking to Montreal, and Portobello Beach.

Edited from https://www.amazon.com/author/davidkalloo

TRINIDAD&TOBAGO

GLOBAL FAMALAY REUNITES IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO FOR 11TH STEELPAN AND CARNIVAL ARTS CONFERENCE



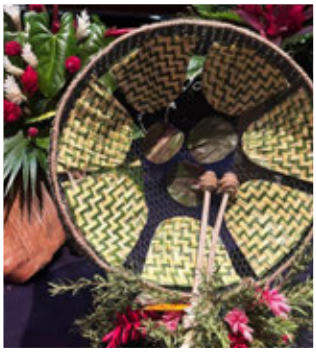


Pictured: 1) (L–R) Dr. Byron M. Jones Jr, UWI, Trinidad, Mr. Dexter Khan, Cocoyea Mas Band, London, Ms. Caron Bitter-Phinney, Toronto Metropolitan University, and Ms. Josephine Torrel-Brown, University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT), with sign language interpreter (standing), Toronto Metropolitan University**; 2)** Prof. Clement Imbert ORTT, Chairman, Board of Governors, UTT, delivering the opening address on Day One, 6 March 2025**; (3)** Prof. Dawn Batson delivering the plenary, Forged in Fire: The Steelpan's Transformative Power Across Generations; **(4)** Shell Invaders Youth Steel Orchestra performing at NAPA, 6 March 2025; and **(5)** Mr. Ray Funk in discussion with Ms. Laila Shah during group sessions. **Photos: 1,4 & 5 – Carnival Arts Conference; 2&3 – UTT**

Edited from **LAILA M.N. SHAH & HAROUN SHAH | PANPODIUM.COM**

The 11th Steelpan and Carnival Arts Conference, held from 6–8 March 2025 at the National Academy for the Performing Arts (NAPA), marked a historic homecoming for a conference series that began in London in 2006. Founded by Nostalgia Steelband and later expanded to include Carnival Arts, the conference was staged in Trinidad and Tobago for the first time, in partnership with the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) and the International Carnival Conference Committee (ICCC).

Under the theme *Carnival Interconnections and Reconnections; Cultural Cadence: Steelpan, Calypso and Mas and the Global Diaspora Connection*, the three-day gathering brought together scholars, practitioners, tuners, performers and cultural visionaries from across the globe. With over 50 academic papers, four plenary lectures, workshops and film screenings, the programme examined steelpan innovation, calypso's lyrical power, masquerade traditions, African retentions and the evolving "Orange Economy."



Above: Floral pan installation at the Conference, *A Tribute to the Power of Pan*, designed by Melissa Lee Foon, Chelsea Flower Show Gold Award recipient. **Photo: Carnival Arts Conference**

A major highlight was the premiere of the documentary *Ellie Mannette: A Destiny in Steel*, followed by an electrifying live performance from the legendary Shell Invaders Steel Orchestra (Youth and Stage Sides). Their stirring rendition of *Stand By Me*, joined by master arranger Dr. Ray Holman, transformed the auditorium into a celebration of heritage and pride.

The conference opened with addresses from Dr. Kela Francis (UTT), Prof. Clement Imbert, and Prof. Haroun Shah, who called for deeper diasporic collaboration through a global "famalay" network. Plenary speakers included Prof. Dawn Batson, Dr. Christopher Laird, Dr. Ray Holman and Mr. Ansel Wong CBE.

Visually striking was Ms. Melissa Lee Foon's floral stage installation, *A Tribute to the Power of Pan*, symbolising Carnival's fleeting yet enduring beauty.

The conference concluded with plans announced for the 12th gathering in London in July 2026, commemorating TASPO at 75, ensuring that the global dialogue on Pan and Carnival continues.

For a comprehensive account of the conference proceedings, presentations, performances and reflections, readers are encouraged to visit Pan Podium website and read the full article at: https://bit.ly/11thSteelpanCAConference

DOCUMENTARY ON PETER MINSHALL WINS AWARD AND SCREENED AT CANNES FILM FESTIVAL'S FIRST CARIBBEAN DAY

In May 2025, Caribbean cinema marked a significant milestone when the documentary *The Tall Boy*, about Trinidadian Carnival icon Peter Minshall, was screened at the first Caribbean Day held at Pavillon Afriques during the Cannes Film Festival. The event took place on 21 May 2025 and showcased Caribbean storytelling alongside regional films, panels, and industry networking.

Prior to its screening at Caribbean Day, *The Tall Boy* won Best Documentary at the 2025 Diversity in Cannes Short Film and Webseries Showcase on 19 May 2025 in Cannes, France. The award celebrated the documentary's tribute to Minshall's global artistic influence, including his role in creating cultural icons such as the "tube man" that has appeared at major events worldwide.

Directed by Life Garland, the documentary explores Minshall's lasting impact on Carnival arts and performance culture, drawing international attention to the creative contributions of Trinidad and Tobago. The film's recognition came at an independent showcase supported by diversity-focused partners and provided an important platform for underrepresented voices in cinema.

Caribbean Day at Pavillon Afriques brought together filmmakers, producers and global industry professionals,

Top right: Poster for *The Tall Boy: A Story that Blows* Documentry, **Above:** Peter Minshall's iconic carnival costume 'Tan Tan' shown in a scene from *The Tall Boy* documentary**. Photos: www.thetallboyshort.com**

At right: Peter Minshall

highlighting the region's rising cinematic creativity. Hosted alongside the official Cannes Festival, the initiative offered screenings, panel discussions and curated networking opportunities aimed at expanding co-production and distribution prospects for Caribbean content.

Sponsors and supporters emphasised the role of film in cultural and tourism promotion, reinforcing regional collaboration on the global stage and marking Caribbean Day as a breakthrough moment for the industry.

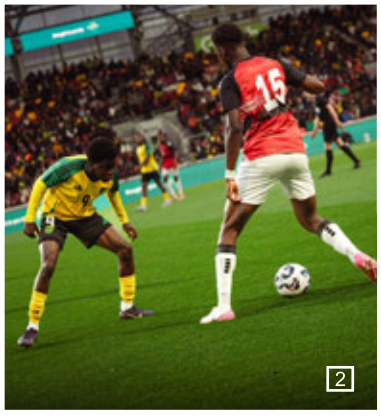
Edited from https://newsday.co.tt/2025/06/08/the-tall-boy-takes-trinidad-and-tobago-to-cannes-film-festival/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

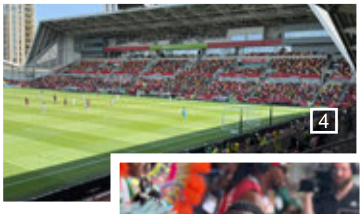
Pictured: (L-R) Mr. Tambay Obenson, Mr. Joel Ayuk, Mr. Simon Baptiste, and Mr. Mark Walton in discussion with industry professionals during exclusive screenings of *The Tall Boy* short and Ernest Dickerson's *Double Play*, filmed in Curaçao, at Caribbean Day, Pavillon Afriques, Cannes International Film Festival, 21 May.

Photo: Simon Baptiste

T&T SENIOR MEN'S FOOTBALL TEAM COMPETE AT UNITY CUP 2025 IN LONDON

Trinidad and Tobago's senior men's football team, the Soca Warriors, competed with determination at the 2025 Unity Cup, an Afro Caribbean invitational tournament hosted at Brentford FC's Gtech Community Stadium in West London. The competition marked the return of the Unity Cup after a 21 year hiatus and featured teams from Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, Ghana, and Nigeria, drawing large diasporic support.





The Warriors opened their campaign on 27 May against regional rivals Jamaica. After falling behind by two goals, Trinidad and Tobago mounted a spirited comeback, with Isaiah Leacock and Kevin Molino both scoring to level the match at 2–2. However, a late penalty conceded in added time allowed Jamaica to secure a 3–2 victory in a dramatic encounter that showcased the Warriors' resilience.

Trinidad and Tobago then faced Ghana in the third place playoff on 31 May. Despite moments of promise, the Warriors were defeated 4–0, with the experience providing valuable lessons for a squad blending youth and seasoned players ahead of upcoming fixtures.

Pictured: 1) Trinidad and Tobago Senior Men's Football Team, **2)** T&T midfielder Dantaye Gilbert (right) squares off against Jamaica forward Kaheim Dixon, **Photos: Quency Charles (@qc_visuals_), 3)** Dwight Yorke, Head Coach. **Photo: TTFA, 4)** View from the stands during Trinidad and Tobago vs Ghana. **Photo: Unity Cup, 5)** Triniboi Joocie, **Photo: Triniboi Joocie**

Head Coach Dwight Yorke described the Unity Cup as an important "eye opener" for his players, offering exposure to varied playing styles and competition levels not often encountered outside the CONCACAF region.

Adding to the excitement of the tournament, UK-based award winning soca artist Triniboi Joocie brought his signature energy to the Gtech Stadium, performing live for fans and adding a vibrant cultural dimension to the matches. His appearance highlighted the strong connection between Trinidad and Tobago's sporting and musical talent, celebrating the nation's presence on the UK stage.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO FOOTBALLERS MAKE STRIDES IN EUROPE

Trinidad and Tobago continues to make its mark in international football with two players securing significant moves in Europe during the 2025 summer transfer window.

Kédie Johnson, a Women's International defender, became the seventh recruit of French Arkema Première Ligue club AS Saint-Étienne. Johnson, who first moved to Europe in 2023 with LOSC, featured in 25 matches over two seasons, gaining valuable top-flight experience. At Saint-Étienne, she will wear the number 20 shirt under coach Sébastien Joseph. "I am very proud to sign with this iconic club. It's not often that a Trinibagonian player has the chance to play at the highest level in France," Johnson said.

At Left: Kédie Johnson with Sébastien Joseph, Head coach of French Arkema Première Ligue club AS Saint-Étienne, **Photo: Asse.fr, Right:** TT defender Andre Raymond is unveiled by new club Ilves Tampere. **Photo: Darren McBay.**

Joseph added, "She is very strong in one-on-one situations, versatile, and brings athleticism to our defensive line."

On the men's side, Andre Raymond, left-back for the Soca Warriors, joined Finnish top-flight club Ilves Tampere from Scottish side St Johnstone. Raymond, made 21 appearances for St Johnstone and spent time on loan at Dunfermline Athletic before his move. Ilves sporting director Miika Takkula praised Raymond's pace, attacking runs, and crossing ability, noting that he brings "new options to the attacking third." Raymond, who debuted for T&T in 2023, recently featured in the Unity Cup, FIFA 2026 World Cup qualifiers, and Concacaf Gold Cup matches.

Both moves underscore the growing presence and impact of Trinidad and Tobago talent in Europe's competitive leagues, offering valuable international experience and exposure.

Edited from https://newsday.co.tt/2025/07/17/trinidad-and-tobago-defender-andre-raymond-joins-finlands-ilves/

T&T STUDENT GAINS HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE IN SURGICAL ROBOTICS AT LEEDS

At Left: (L-R) Dr. Jonathan Noël, Ms. Nehal Wadhwani, Dr. Nikita Greenidge, Mr. Justin Sooknanan, Ms. Samiya Allen, Ms. Abishua Johnson. **At right:** (backrow) Ms. Nehal Wadhwani, Mr. Yenver Caezar, First Secretary, Saint Lucia High Commission in London, Mr. Justin Sooknanan, Mr. Abishua Johnson, Ms. Samiya Allen and Ms. Angela St. Denis; (front row) Dr. Jonathan Noël, Dr. Nikita Greenidge, His Excellency Anthony B. Severin. **Photos: Nikita Greenidge**

Mr. Justin Sooknanan of Trinidad and Tobago was among a select group of Caribbean students chosen to participate in the inaugural CariSurg Summer Surgical Robotics Research Programme at the University of Leeds. The eight-week initiative, hosted in the internationally recognised STORM Lab, provided Justin with the opportunity to engage directly in cutting-edge surgical robotics research, bridging engineering and medical sciences. Working alongside students from the University of the West Indies and Columbia University, Justin contributed to innovative projects including advancing AI tools for the da Vinci surgical robot, designing magnetic vines for endoscopic procedures, and developing affordable cancer screening technology. The programme was supervised by Professor Pietro Valdastri (University of Leeds) and Dr. Carl Beckford (UWI), giving participants invaluable exposure to world-class research environments.

A major highlight for Justin was a visit to Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust in London, where the group observed a live robotic-assisted surgery performed by Barbadian urologist and UWI alumnus Dr. Jonathan Noël. The students also presented their research progress and vision for improving Caribbean healthcare to His Excellency Anthony B. Severin OBE, High Commissioner of Saint Lucia.

Established by Dr. Nikita Greenidge, the CariSurg programme aims to create sustainable research pathways for Caribbean students. Justin's participation reflects the growing presence of Trinidad and Tobago talent in advanced global research spaces and underscores the country's potential contribution to medical innovation in the region.

NEW GENERATION CROWNED AT JUST INCARNIVAL UK SMALL BAND PANORAMA 2025

Pictured: 1) North Tyneside Steel Orchestra, **2)** Triniboi Joocie performs his soca hits for attendees, **3)** Calypsonian - Jeremy Adams, **4)** Reggae artiste Kojo Rigault, **5)** New Generation Steel Orchestra, **6)** (L-R) Representatives from Eclipse Steel Orchestra, New Generation Steel Orchestra, and North Tyneside Steelband with their respective trophies. **Photos: Peter Hogan**

The UK Small Band Panorama, presented by JUST INCARNIVAL, brought vibrant steelpan energy to the Pentland Theatre at artsdepot on Sunday 3 August 2025. The showcase celebrated Caribbean culture and marked a significant milestone for the UK steelpan community as the first competition of its kind dedicated specifically to small bands in the UK.

Three leading UK steelbands each performed two selections in a closely contested musical presentation. After strong performances, New Generation Steel Orchestra secured first place, followed by Eclipse Steel Orchestra in second and North Tyneside Steelband in third.

A notable highlight of the evening was the Arranger Achievement recognition awarded to 15-year-old Lushan Dennis, who won his first Panorama as both arranger and drummer for his band.

The programme also featured guest performances by Triniboi Joocie, reggae artiste Kojo Rigault, and calypsonian Jeremy Adams, with DJs contributing to the celebratory atmosphere. A complimentary after-event gathering extended the evening's engagement.

The Trinidad and Tobago High Commission was represented by Immigration Attaché Raymond Butler.

Pictured: 7) Eclipse Steel Orchestra, **8)** Mr. Raymond Butler addressing attendees, **9)** Mr Justin Thomas and Mrs Dianne Ramdeen, founders of Just InCarnival, along with the Just InCarnival team, present honorary certificates to founding members and band leaders active in the scene for over 20–25 years. **Photo: Peter Hogan**

PEPPER POT CENTRE HOSTED ANNUAL CARIBBEAN CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

The Pepper Pot Centre hosted its annual Caribbean Christmas Party in December 2024, welcoming around 130 members, friends, and guests for an afternoon of music, food, and celebration.

Established in 1981, the Centre supports older Caribbean nationals in the UK by promoting wellbeing, connection, and cultural belonging. The Christmas party is a key highlight, helping reduce isolation while strengthening community bonds.

The event was supported by 23 student volunteers from Morley College London, University of West London, and Imperial College London, alongside volunteers from the Westway Trust.

Donations came from 10 Caribbean High Commissions, including the High Commission for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago in London, setting a record for participation. Guest speaker Ms. Vivienne Siva, Community Relations Officer at the High Commission of Jamaica in London, delivered festive greetings, emphasising the value of community support and cultural celebration in bringing people together during the holiday season.

Pictured: (L-R) Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Councillor Tom Bennett and Mr. Howard Jeffrey MBE, Chair Pepper Pot Centre with volunteers from Pepper Pot centre, **2)** Ms. Vivienne Siva, Community Relations Officer at the High Commission of Jamaica in London delivering seasonal greetings to the attendees, **3)** Attendees enjoying the festive Christmas dinner reception at the Pepper Pot Centre. **Photo: Pepper Pot Centre**

UPCOMING EVENTS + PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

SATURDAY 11TH JULY
BARKING & DAGENHAM CARNIVAL
BARKING PARK, ESSEX, IG11 8UD
TIME: 1 PM | ADMISSION: FREE

WEDNESDAY 22ND - FRIDAY 24TH JULY
12TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN ARTS: STEELPAN, CALYPSO & MAS
UNIVERSITY OF WEST LONDON CAMPUS,W5 5RF. ADMISSION: FREE

REGISTRATOIN REQUIRED:
https://bit.ly/12thCarnivalArtsConference

SATURDAY 11TH JULY
UK SMALL BAND PANORAMA
ART DEPOT, NORTH FINCHLEY, LONDON, N21. TIME: 12 PM

TICKETS AVAILABLE:
www.artsdepot.co.uk

SUNDAY 23RD AUGUST
A THANKSGIVING INTERFAITH SERVICE
ST PETER'S EATON SQUARE, LONDON W6 9AB TIME: 3 PM

THURSDAY 27TH AUGUST
JOOCIE IN THE CITY
ARBORETUM, LONDON WC2H
TIME: 7 PM |

TICKETS AVAILABLE ON EVENTBRITE/ AT THE DOOR

MONDAY 31ST AUGUST
INDEPENDENCE DAY / BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY

THURSDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER
REPUBLIC DAY

NOVEMBER (TBC)
DIVALI

FRIDAY 25TH DECEMBER
CHIRSTMAS DAY

MONDAY 28TH DECEMBER
BOXING DAY

TRINIDAD BLACK CAKE

Preparation

Prep Time: 30 mins | Soaking Time: 1 week (soaking fruit in rum/brandied mixture) | Cook Time: 120-150 mins | Serves 12-16 (two 9-inch cakes)

Ingredients:

- 1¼ lb raisins
- ½ lb currants
- ¾ lb sultanas
- ½ lb prunes
- ½ lb chopped walnuts
- ¼ lb mixed peel
- ¼ lb cherries
- 1⅔ cups dark rum
- 1⅔ cups cherry brandy
- 1 lb butter
- 1 lb brown sugar
- 6 eggs
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 3 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp cinnamon and allspice, mixed
- 2 tsp essence

Method:

1. Brandy or rum to 'nurse' your cake with after baking
2. Seed and cut up fruits, except cherries into about ¼-inch pieces.
3. Combine rum and cherry brandy and add fruits to mixture.
4. Let soak overnight or up to one week, longer if preferred.
5. Preheat oven to 300F.
6. Cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy.
7. Add eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition.
8. Black cake ingredients - Photo by Wendy Rahamut
9. Sift together flour and baking powder, cinnamon and allspice.
10. Drain fruits reserve liquid, mince fruits.
11. Add drained fruits to butter and sugar mixture.
12. Add cut up cherries and nuts.
13. Fold flour into fruits and butter mixture, alternately with
14. Remaining liquid.
15. Add mixed essence, mix well.
16. Grease and line two 9-inch cake pans with waxed paper, grease and flour paper
17. Spoon cake batter equally into prepared baking pans.
18. Bake for 2 to 2½ hours.
19. Pour on brandy or rum in tablespoon increments over cakes after baking.
20. Repeat this for about one week.

Your cake will keep well wrapped and in a covered tin for about one year.

Note: *To make a non alcohol version of this cake soak your fruits in grape juice for just one week, refrigerated, this cake will need to be refrigerated a few days after baking.*

Wendy Rahamut's black cake - https://newsday.co.tt/2025/12/13/wendy-rahamuts-black-cake//

The Trinidad and Tobago High Commission, UK, is calling on nationals wishing to have art exhibitions, book launches, film nights and other similar events to contact us at the Mission.

Please note that all events are subject to approval by the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs. All events will be limited to approximately 150 persons

Please feel free to contact the High Commission at
hclondon@foreign.gov.tt
with your proposal.

HIGH COMMISSION FOR THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
TO THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

Updated Passport Application Fees:

Effective 1 January 2026

Machine Readable Passport

Adult (16 Years and Over)

	Previous Fee	Fee from 1 JAN 2026	Fee Change
Adult Passport	£44	£71	£27
Special 48-page Passport (B)	£54	£93	£39
Valid Lost or Misplaced Passport	£128	£239	£111
Expired Lost or Misplaced Passport	£44	£71	£27
Stolen Passport	£44	£71	£27
Mutilated or Damaged Passport	£128	£239	£111

Child (Child 2 to Under 16 Years)

	Previous Fee	Fee from 1 JAN 2026	Fee Change
Passport (First time or Renewal)	£44	£71	£27
Valid Lost or Misplaced Passport	£128	£239	£111
Expired Lost or Misplaced Passport	£44	£71	£27
Stolen Passport	£44	£71	£27
Mutilated or Damaged Passport	£128	£239	£111

Pensioner (60 years & over) & Child under 2 years

	Previous Fee	Fee from 1 JAN 2026	Fee Change
Passport (First time or Renewal)	£14	£14	£0
Valid Lost or Misplaced Passport	£14	£14	£0
Expired Lost or Misplaced Passport	£14	£14	£0
Stolen Passport	£14	£14	£0
Mutilated or Damaged Passport	£14	£14	£0

Emergency Travel Document

	Previous Fee	Fee from 1 JAN 2026	Fee Change
Emergency passport	£48	£69	£21
Emergency certificate	£11	£11	£0

Citizenship Fees

	Previous Fee	Fee from 1 JAN 2026	Fee Change
Renunciation	£39	£50	£11

General Information

METHOD OF PAYMENTS ACCEPTED

(£) Cash

UK Postal Order (NB. UK Postal Order will only be accepted if issue date is less than 6 months from date of submission of application)

PASSPORT DETAILS

All Passports are 32 pages unless one applies for the special 48 page passport.

All fees include a Diplomatic Service Charge (DMSC) of £14.00. For persons aged 60 years and over and under 2 years the passport is gratis, only the DMSC fee of £14.00 applies.

All aforementioned fees are in accordance with the Revised Rates of Exchange to be used for the conversion of Passport and other fees as set out in the Seventh Schedule of the Immigration Act Chapter 18:01 and the Second Schedule of the Citizenship of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago Act.

A PUBLICATION OF THE HIGH COMMISSION FOR THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, LONDON
42 BELGRAVE SQUARE, LONDON SW1X 8NT | **TEL:** 020 7245 9351 | **FAX:** 020 7823 1065 | **EMAIL:** HCLONDONPACT@FOREIGN.GOV.TT
WEBSITE: WWW.FOREIGN.GOV.TT/HCLONDON